THE  TIMES

No. 66,481

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1999

http://www.the-times.co.uk







Cynical ceasefire 'just a ploy'

Nato rejects deal as exiles top a million

BY MICHAEL EVANS, TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE AND CHARLES BREMNER

AN OFFER from Belgrade to begin a unilateral ceasefire in Kosovo from 7pm last night was rejected out of hand by Nato government leaders, who claimed it was simply a ploy to stop the airstrikes.

The sudden announcement of a ceasefire came after a day in which Nato aircraft carried out the largest number of bombing sorties so far in the air campaign. The alliance also warned that the next attacks would be even bigger, piling the pressure on President Milosevic.

The ceasefire announcement was made in a joint statement from the Federal Yugoslav and Serbian governments. It said the 400,000 ethnic Albanian refugees in neighbouring countries would be allowed home.

A Ministry of Defence official said that 1.1 million out of a total ethnic Albanian population of 1.8 million had now become refugees since the civil war in Kosovo began about a year ago.

Vuk Draskovic, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, was quoted as saying that troop levels in Kosovo would be reduced and all forces would return to their barracks before the ceasefire started. He also said Belgrade would allow some form of international involvement in enforcing a peace settlement but there was no commitment to having foreign troops in the province.

Downing Street said that Mr Draskovic, who went on Yugoslav state television to discuss the ceasefire, had "zero authority".

The Belgrade statement also offered a "temporary agreement" with Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate ethnic Albanian leader who has been under Yugoslav military "protection" since the bombing began. The temporary arrangement would be the basis for a "final agreement" on Kosovo, the statement said.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "It doesn't go nearly far enough. Milosevic knows what he has to do and this falls way short of that. Until Milosevic fulfills the conditions Nato set out, Nato's action will continue."

A White House spokesman also dismissed the ceasefire offer as unacceptable and insisted that the bombing would carry on. The spokesman said the US was not interested in "hollow gestures". A senior Nato diplomat said the ceasefire offer was " a non-starter".

There were signs from Italy and Greece that they might lend a more sympathetic ear to the Belgrade initiative. The Italian Government said it was reviewing the proposal.

Alliance officials said there was no sign of a crack in the unity which the 19 Nato states had maintained since the air offensive began on March 24. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said: "We are going to carry on as long as it takes."

Nato officials also poured scorn on Belgrade's offer to have Mr Rugova negotiate a peace accord. He was not a free agent and was living with his family in Pristina under house arrest, the alliance officials said.

Even a member of the Government in Montenegro, the Yugoslav republic, reacted with scepticism to the ceasefire. Dragisa Burzan, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the offer was "totally unrealistic".

Emphasising that he was speaking in a personal capacity, he said: " I do not under-

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Bussed from Blace's makeshift camp on the Macedonian border to Skopje airport, confused Kosovans are frisked for guns, then pushed aboard charter flights bound for Turkey

'At least the Nazis kept a record of those they took away. Who will know if I am alive or dead?'

— a refugee leaving for Turkey yesterday

Families are divided and deported



Daniel McGrory watches as refugees are forced to fly out to uncertain future

Photograph: Simon Walker

NO ONE would tell seven-year-old Ardita Berisha why she was being forced out of a country at gunpoint for the second time in a week. She kept asking where they were going as an armed policeman shoved her into an airport bus, deporting the Berishas and 1,500 other confused refugees to Turkey yesterday.

Rabia, her mother, began to cry and asked a security guard how her husband was meant to find them as he was stranded somewhere in Kosovo. The guard, his face partially covered by a surgical mask, shouted at her to do as she was told.

The Macedonian Government calls this a humanitarian airlift. But United Nations *chiefs threatened to withdraw* its funding unless the forced expulsions were stopped and the Government ceases to split families. UN chiefs insisted that officials must register all those leaving Macedonia and the Red Cross condemned the flights because people had no idea they were going.

By last night more than 3,500 refugees had been expelled. They were given no choice about going and there was no attempt to record the names of those forced on to planes at Skopje airport.

Just before riot police unloaded this bewildered human cargo driven straight from the squalor of the frontier crossing at Blace yesterday, an airport official said: "Don't tell them where they are going or they will try to make a run for it."

Tired and covered in mud, Rabia Berisha clutched the youngest of her five children, 11-month-old Alma, as Macedonian officials pushed and prodded her family towards *the first of 14 chartered planes* on the tarmac. No one asked to see any family documents — just as well as the Serbs took them seven days ago when forcing the Berishas from their Pristina hiding place.

Nobody had bothered to register their names when they were pulled out of a muddy border field yesterday morning so this family never officially existed in Macedonia despite having been stranded here for ten days. Her handicapped son Durim, five, was cradled in the arms of her nephew, Fatlum, 18, who has also been separated from his father. "Will you tell him where I'm going," he pleaded with the security guard frisking him.

Told by *The Times* that he was to be flown to Turkey, Fatlum looked panic-stricken. "Tell them I want to stay here, as close to Kosovo as possible, to wait for my family," he shouted. Like others who tried to protest, he was ignored.

He begged to be allowed to leave his name with an official, asking for it to be passed to the Red Cross. There were no Red Cross or UN officials at the airport although they had been told this deportation was under way.

One man shouted: "At least the Nazis kept a record of those they took away. Who will know if I'm alive or dead. The Serbs have destroyed my records and now the Macedonians pretend I don't exist. A punch in the back silenced further protests.

Asked why the refugees were being searched, a security guard said: "We are looking for guns." Isak Zigoli held up his arms so he could be frisked. He is 72. "I would have stayed in Kosovo and died there if I had known what would happen to me," he said as the guard grabbed the neck of his jumper to stop him talking to reporters. "I don't think I will see my sons again."

Behind came another elderly couple who clung to each other, whispering reassurances, as they were swallowed up in the overcrowded bus.

A succession of aid flights dropped into Skopje and Nato troops bustled around helping to unload tents from Switzerland, *ration packs from* Germany and water pipes from France. It all piled up on the tarmac with customs officials in no hurry to release it. The Israelis arrived with a field hospital and about 70 troops, who watched uncomfortably as Kosovan refugees were marched past them.

After meeting UN officials, Ljubco Georgievski, the Macedonian Prime Minister, insisted that the refugees had been told that they were being flown to Turkey.

Asked if he would continue with the deportations, he said angrily: "Why are you concentrating on such peripheral issues? This is unimportant. Macedonia is the only innocent victim in this war. Next question."

INSIDE

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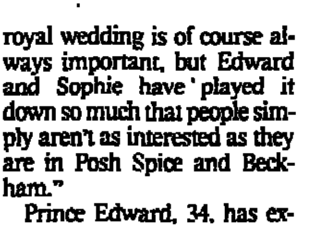
Royal wedding is not so Posh

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND MICHAEL HARVEY

PALACE officials may hope that the June wedding of Edward and Sophie will be the social event of the year, but they are in danger of being thoroughly upstaged by Posh and Becks.

The Queen's youngest son weds his beloved Sophie Rhys-Jones at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on June 19. David Beckham of Manchester United *marries* Victoria Adams, the artist also known as Posh Spice, on July 4, probably in Ireland. Of the two, the latter is raising media blood pressure more than the former.

It emerged yesterday that even Prince Edward's wish to have his ceremony filmed by his own television company,



vetoed by Buckingham Palace. At the same time *OK!* magazine has done a £1 million deal to secure exclusive access to the ceremony uniting footballer and singer.

Martin Townsend, Editor of *OK!*, believes his million is money well spent. "It is going ... royal wedding is of course always important, but Edward and Sophie have played it down so much that people simply aren't as interested as they are in Posh Spice and Beckham."

Prince Edward, 34, has expressed a wish that his wedding should be much lower-key than those of his brothers, with 500 guests, and a few members of the public looking on from the Windsor Castle precincts. Beckham, 24, and Adams, 23, will have an expected 500 guests, but they are showing no inhibitions about keeping it quiet.

Fashion designers will be scouring every detail of the two bridal dresses, but the greater interest will be in that of Posh. Sandy Boler, editor of *Brides* magazine, said: "Posh Spice ... and the glitz. Her dress will be more important in terms of fashion, and will be much more of the moment. In a way, she is the bride of the Millennium — a modern bride with a son marrying in a hugely romantic wedding."

Both couples will have their own coats of arms adorning their respective wedding invitations. Prince Edward's are deeply traditional. Beckham and Adams have come up with a design involving a swan, a crown and the motto: "Love, Friendship."

William Hunt, Portcullis Pursuivant at the College of Arms, struck a blow for old-fashioned tradition when he was shown the new crest: "The swan is facing the wrong way, and that is very bad as it is basically showing its bottom ...

Lockerbie charges

One by one, all 270 names of the Lockerbie bomb victims were read out yesterday to the two Libyans suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103. On their first full day in Scottish custody Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh sat for two hours as Dumfries and Galloway police read out the detailed warrant outlining all the charges against them ....Page 10

Stocks soar to a record

The stock market surged to a record high bolstered by a flood of last minute PEP investments and hopes of another interest rate cut. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 85.3 at 6415.3, having earlier reached ...

Russian viewers finally see case for Nato

From Anna Blundy in Moscow

NTV, Russia's most independent television station, has shocked viewers this week with its coverage of the "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs in Kosovo. Its recent reports from the region are the first public admission that the Serbs, so vociferously supported in Russia, may have provoked Nato's bombing campaign.

Konstantin Borovoi, a Duma deputy who is in favour of the Nato strikes, ended his five-day hunger strike yesterday when radio and television stations finally allowed him to air his anti-Serb views. He refused all food from April 1 in protest at what he considered to be biased media coverage.

"The pro-Serb propaganda campaign has been executed in the old Soviet way," Mr Borovoi said. "Primakov is not just the Prime Minister, but the leader of a political group with the conscience of the KGB." He complained that the pro-Nato demonstration he and his followers had planned had been banned.

Only after the groundbreaking coverage by NTV did other radio and television stations follow suit, admitting that their reports were subject to Serbian military censorship. *Novaya Gazeta* ran a commentary by Andrei Piontovsky of the Centre for Strategic Studies suggesting that blind support for the Serbs may be misguided.

Yevgeni Kiselyov, presenter of NTV's weekly news programme *Itogi*, acknowledged that his influential change in stance was in large part related to domestic issues. "I understand that anti-Nato, anti-Western, anti-American hysteria could lead to a situation when we would have restored Communist Party rule," Mr Kiselyov told the *Moscow Times*.

Vladimir Kulistikov, NTV's chief news editor, attributed the new-style coverage to the fact that Pavel Lobkov, Russia's answer to John Simpson of the BBC, had got into Macedonia and interviewed refugees. Mr Borovoi said he was delighted the media had come to their senses.

Victims' reports 'reveal system of abuse'



US war crimes expert says testimonies show Serbs are carrying out ethnic cleansing policy, Philip Webster writes

WAR crimes and genocide are being committed in Kosovo on a massive scale as Serbs systematically kill or force out the Albanians in Kosovo, according to a graphic account by America's special ambassador on war crimes.

Across the country families are being given five minutes to pick up what they can and clear out of their homes forever. If they refuse, they are shot or burnt, David Scheffer said.

He has concluded that Serb actions in Kosovo amount to "evil" and said that Serb commanders on the ground should understand that they would be pursued for the crimes they are committing.

Mr Scheffer, who reports to Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, spent two days at Brace, on the Kosovo-Macedonia, border last week interviewing refugees.

Without disclosing his identity, Mr Scheffer spoke to about 200 refugees during 16 hours of interviews assisted by an interpreter. In an interview with *The Times*, he said there was a "remarkable consistency" in the accounts and the pattern of Serb behaviour.

Serb police and paramilitaries entered towns and villages and moved neighbourhood by neighbourhood to carry out "ethnic cleansing".

"They do this by approaching each home with Kosovo Albanians in them. They do not touch those with Serbs in them. They barge through the doors and give residents five minutes to clear out forever," he said. "When the Kosovans are scrambling to pick up anything they can find, food and warm clothing, the police and military 'shake them down' for cash and jewellery.

"Once they are out, the homes are torched — unless the house is a nice or comfortable one, in which case sometimes it is occupied by the military. Those who resist are killed. They are either shot in the home or left inside to burn to death when the house is torched.

"Witnesses told me that there was no discrimination. Elderly ladies are killed or burnt in the same way as young men. No particular sector of society is safe. I heard this account so many times from so many people that it is clearly premeditated and planned. The same pattern seems to be emerging everywhere."

Mr Scheffer said that the refugees were then marched onto buses or to Prístina train station. As they moved out of their towns and villages, the Serbs who have been their neighbours stand on the side of the road applauding their departure. Some refugees said that during the night-time assaults on their homes the soldiers were joined by local Serbs.

Mr Scheffer said that all the refugees that he had interviewed wanted to return to Kosovo, but most of them wondered whether they could ever again live side-by-side with Serb neighbours who had helped with their eviction.

The ambassador said that another common tactic was that the forced marches were accompanied by snipers. Anyone deviating from the straight marching line would be picked off. "This is a very common tactic to discipline and intimidate the ethnic cleansing process," he said.

Another common approach of the Serbs was to force the refugees to drop all the food and clothing they had picked up before rushing out of their homes. "It is deliberate. When they crowd on to the train platform at Pristina, they do not have any belongings. They arrive at the Macedonia border destitute, hungry and cold."

Mr Scheffer said that this deprivation of basic needs was one more war crime that could be added to the charge sheet being assembled against the Serb leadership and its men.

Another war crime was the deliberate withdrawal of medical care for the Kosovo Albanians. "The hospital in Pristina has been evacuated. I was told that paralysed Albanians had been left in the hospital and one person told me . . . that they had been shot."

Finally, Mr Scheffer said, the conditions of travelling were inhumane. There were 300 people packed into each carriage of a 21-car train. "I watched a train arrive in Brace. It was an amazing sight. As it stopped people flowed out like a tidal wave."

> ‘Elderly ladies are killed in the same way as young men’

Mr Scheffer, who has just reported to Mrs Albright, concluded that ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity were occurring on a large scale.

"What is happening is so systematic, so well planned in its execution, that there are clear indicators of genocide occurring in Kosovo. Intent is a critical element of the law of genocide. When you look at the facts on the ground, you see clear indicators of intent," he said. "These are massive crimes against humanity."

☐ **Skopje:** The latest refugees forced from their homes in Pristina brought new evidence yesterday of how the Serbs are carefully organising the complete ethnic cleansing of Kosovo's capital (Daniel McGrory writes).

Paramilitary gunmen are using public records to systematically ensure entire Albanian families are evicted and immediately replaced in their homes and businesses by Serbs.

Zoge Idrizi, a 28-year-old computer programmer, described how masked men worked their way along the street of apartment blocks where she lived in the suburb of Uleiana.

"They knew exactly which homes were occupied by Albanians," she said.

An OSCE monitor said: "They have Serb families assigned to Albanian properties before the occupants are out. This is to make sure those evicted can never return."

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HARRY PAGE · REUTERS



An aerial view of refugee tents at Brazde, Macedonia, where reports of massacres inside Kosovo are growing

BALKANS SUMMARY

US Cuba base for refugees

Washington: America is to house 20,000 ethnic Albanian refugees in the US naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, which the United States considers as its territory (Ben Macintyre writes). The base, formerly used to house Haitian and Cuban refugees, would be ready to receive Albanians driven out of Kosovo in a few days, US officials said.

But a Cuban government official strongly criticised the plan. "The American aggressors in Yugoslavia have no right to bring these people to Cuba," said Raúl Taladrid. "The refugee problem is a European problem."

Washington is also considering Guam as a potential site to harbour the refugees.

British appeal

Thousands of people inundated charity hotlines last night to donate to an appeal by 12 British aid agencies to help the Kosovan refugees. The appeal was launched on BBC TV by Jill Dando, the presenter, and on ITV by Juliet Stevenson, the actress. It is being coordinated by the Disasters' Emergency Committee.

Sharon warning

Jerusalem: The Israeli Foreign Minister, Ariel Sharon, warned the West that Islamic states could form a greater Albanian bloc that would spread unrest throughout Europe. He told Israel Radio: "We can certainly see here a focus of activity that would cause unrest."

Australia haven

Sydney: Australia has decided to allow 4,000 Kosovan refugees into the country on a temporary basis, after being criticised for not pulling its weight in the Balkans crisis (Roger Maynard writes). The about-turn came after mounting pressure from ethnic communities.

Nato escape

Sarajevo: A rocket-propelled grenade missed a patrolling Nato UH60 Black Hawk helicopter over Serb-run territory in northern Bosnia. Its crew saw an object in front of them after seeing a flash on the ground near Teslic. *(AFP)*

Border killing

Athens: Greek border guards shot and killed an ethnic Albanian woman who was among four people trying to cross into the country from Macedonia. Police said they had ignored warnings to stop. *(Reuters)*

US lulled by Hollywood myth of bloodless war

From Ben Macintyre in Washington

AN AMERICAN soldier is trapped in the combat zone, battling a versatile enemy in hostile terrain: that familiar scenario, repeated in countless Hollywood films from *Rambo* to *Saving Private Ryan*, is inching closer to reality in Kosovo as pressure grows to use US ground troops.

A poll published yesterday in *The Washington Post* showed public opinion shifting dramatically in favour of ground forces going in, with 55 per cent saying they would support a policy change. Just a week ago, barely 40 per cent favoured using US infantry.

Foreign policy experts, politicians and retired soldiers, too, have joined a swelling chorus calling for ground troops, while unnamed military officials have begun popping up in numbers to claim that they had told the Administration from the outset that combat troops would be necessary.



American hero Tom Hanks, right, in *Saving Private Ryan*

America, confronting the reality that Serb forces will not be stopped with cruise missiles alone, has sent Apache helicopter gunships to strike President Milosevic's army — a decision that has been interpreted as a step closer to sending in troops. The Apaches, supported by 2,000 soldiers, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and multiple rocket launchers, may not technically fit the definition of ground forces, but they are specifically designed to hit troops on the ground or, to use the Pentagon's tag-line of the week, to get "up close and personal" with the enemy.

The decision to use the Apaches has raised further questions about where air combat ends and ground engagement begins. A recent cartoon showed President Clinton filling the Kosovo sky with paratroopers and helicopters, while observing: "Of course it depends what you mean by ground troops."

Yet the US remains deeply wary of sending such forces across Kosovo's borders, knowing that the first body-bag will send support for action spiralling downwards. The wave of panic that swept the Pentagon and White House during the hours that rescue troops scrambled to retrieve a single downed pilot is an illustration of sensitivity to possible military losses.

Here, too, Hollywood has played its part, propagating the myth that war can be fought with minimal casualties. Rare is the movie that shows the embattled soldier-hero dying behind enemy lines; Rambo gets away; Private Ryan was, after all, saved. The same unreal approach is reflected in the polls, which show that more than 80 per cent of Americans believe the US should send a snatch team to rescue the three soldiers held by Belgrade.

The story of Scott O'Grady, the US pilot shot down over Bosnia and then rescued, was the subject of a bidding war for film rights, but the equally true story of the US soldiers beaten to death by a mob in Somalia, was not.

In its determination to show that Kosovo will not be another Vietnam, America has oversold the potential of air power, raising impossibly high expectations of success and low expectation of casualties. US officials continue to insist, although less and less emphatically, that there is "no intention" to use ground troops.

Aerial bombardment allows President Clinton to keep control of the script, restricting bloodletting. A ground war, however, would turn this war from American family viewing into a gory epic, with no guarantee of that Hollywood happy ending.

FATE OF KOSOVO REFUGEES

Numbers in the Kosovo refugee crisis from governments and international organisations:

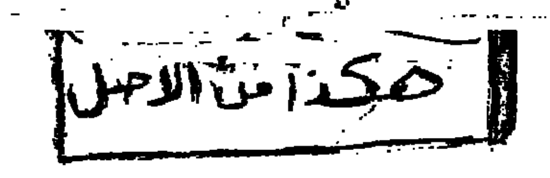
Population of Kosovo	1,956,196 (1991 census)
Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo	more than 1,600,000 (unofficial estimate)
Displaced from Kosovo homes in past year	831,000 (NATO spokesman on Monday)
Fled or expelled from Kosovo since NATObegan air attacks on March 24	over 400,000 (UNHCR Tuesday)
Hiding inside Kosovo	250,000 (NATO Sunday)
Admitted to Albania	270,000 (OSCE Tuesday)
In, or on the border with, Macedonia	130,000 (Macedonian officials Tuesday)
Admitted to Yugoslav rep. of Montenegro	35,700 (UNHCR Monday)
Admitted to Bosnia	7,900 (UNHCR Monday)
Admitted to Turkey	6,000 (UNHCR Monday)
Flown from Macedonia to Turkey	about 1,400
Flown to Norway	91

Sanctuary offered or proposed:

EU/NATO as a whole (German government Sunday): 100,000

Germany (Sunday)	40,000	Austria (Monday)	5,000
United States (Sunday)	20,000	Canada (Sunday)	5,000
Turkey (Sunday)	20,000	Greece (Sunday)	5,000
Norway (Sunday)	6,000	Portugal (Sunday)	1,500
Denmark (Sunday)	6,000	Spain (Tuesday)	7,000-10,000
Sweden (Sunday)	5,500	Australia, for three months (Tuesday)	up to 4,000
Romania (NATO Monday)	up to 6,000		

Britain has offered to take "thousands" without giving a specific figure



Influx of new arms bolsters allies

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE American decision to deploy the Gulf War-proven Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) in Albania to strike at Yugoslav military facilities will significantly increase the firepower available to Nato commanders.

One of the weapons that caused such destruction in the Gulf War, the MLRS is an "area weapon system", using powerful rockets to distribute hundreds of high-explosive bomblets within the chosen target location.

There are two versions of the MLRS, the standard one, which has two six-pod launchers firing a total of 12 rockets, each containing 644 bomblets known as "dual-purpose improved conventional munitions"; and a later version armed with two Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), each one firing 950 tennis ball-sized anti-personnel and anti-material bomblets.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, indicated earlier this week that the Americans would be sending the ATACMS version because it had a range of about 100 miles, putting much of Kosovo within its sights.

Christopher Foss, the editor of *Jane's Armour and Artillery*, said that the standard MLRS had a range of only about 20 miles, which would limit its scope for strikes into Kosovo.

The standard version is used against "soft targets", such as troops and light vehicles, but the MLRS being sent to Albania will have as its targets a range of military facilities including surface-to-air missiles, air defence sites, command and control networks and logistics centres.

When the standard MLRS made its debut in the Gulf War, deployed by both the US Army and British Army, it was claimed that each of the 12 individual rockets could devastate an area the size of a football pitch.

The MLRS with the more powerful and longer-range ATACMS rockets can do similar damage but over an area twice the size.

There is nothing in the Yugoslav Army's inventory that can match such a powerful weapon.

The ATACMS version was rushed into service for the Gulf War but, according to Mr Foss, only 32 were fired out of a total of 105 sent to the Gulf.

The MLRS is a highly mobile weapon system. The crew manning it engages in what is called shoot-and-scoot tactics. Once the rockets have been fired, the MLRS is moved rapidly to another location before the enemy can pinpoint its position and return fire. It also has excellent cross-country ability and has a road speed of up to 40mph.

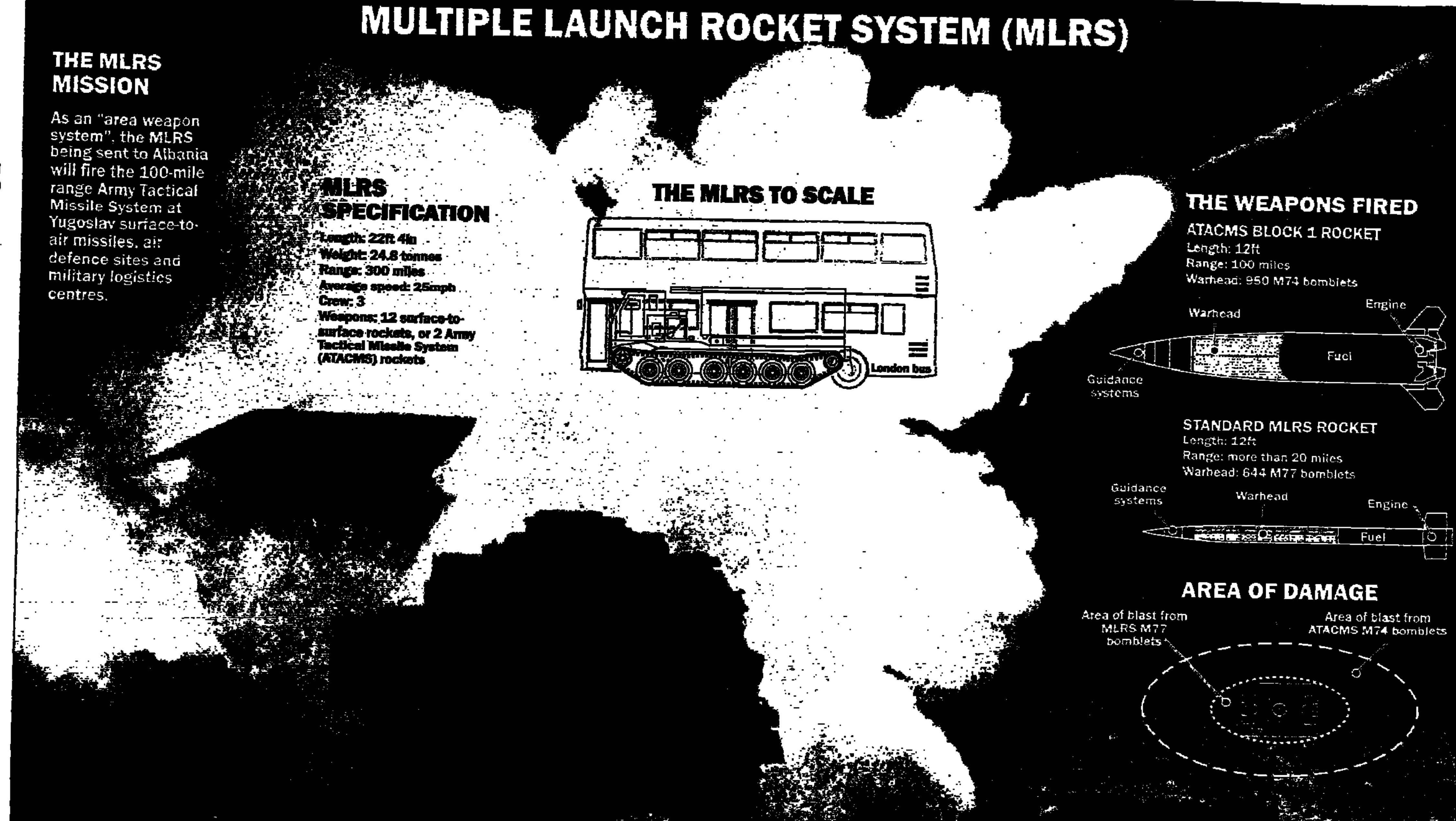
Nicknamed "steel rain", the MLRS has a computerised fire control system that enables the three-man crew, or even a single soldier, to load and unload the launcher.

The computer gives instructions to the crew and checks the condition of the missiles prior to launch. A command post transmits the selected target data directly to the MLRS launcher's computer. When activated, the computer aims the launcher and prompts the crew to arm and fire a preselected number of rounds.

The only problem with the MLRS, Mr Foss said, was that the bomblets did not have self-destruct fuses. This meant that there was a real risk that those bomblets that failed to detonate would lie around, posing a potential hazard for civilians or for allied troops passing through at some future date if a peace implementation force was sent to Kosovo.

Manufactured in America by Lockheed Martin, the MLRS is in service with 13 other countries, apart from the United States and Britain. They include Turkey, Greece, Bahrain, Denmark, Japan and South Korea.

A more advanced version, which is not yet in service, will be guided by the satellite-linked Global Positioning System.



'Long haul' risks wrong outcome

What happens if the allies extend the bombing to destroy Yugoslavia's infrastructure which, unlike Iraq's, is not supported by oil revenue? Michael Evans, Defence Editor, reports on the dilemma confronting Britain and the US

THE stage in Nato's air campaign has been reached when it is legitimate to ask: how much longer can Operation Allied Force continue?

Will another week or ten days of intensive bombing enable the alliance to fulfil its objectives or are the political warnings of a "long haul" going to commit Nato to a campaign lasting months?

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, was adamant yesterday that the bombing would go on until President Milosevic had agreed to allow all the ethnic Albanian refugees back to their villages to rebuild their homes under the protection of an international force.

On that basis, even if the first objective is met, which is to force Mr Milosevic to stop the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo and to withdraw all his forces, the bombing will carry on regardless.

This determination to see it through to the bitter end is clearly intended to send a message to Mr Milosevic that when he comes up with a new "peace" deal, like yesterday's ceasefire offer, it will make no difference to Operation Allied Force unless he agrees to reverse all the damage he has done to the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The sentiments are understandable, but since the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday that 1.1 million ethnic Albanians have now been forced out of their homes in the 12 months since the conflict began — a large proportion of them driven out of Kosovo itself — it is becoming increasingly clear that this objective is going to be the most difficult to meet, perhaps beyond reach.

If Mr Milosevic's nerve holds up for another few weeks, Nato has to face up to the reality that its bombers will destroy what was already a weak Yugoslav economy, that they will damage the country's infrastructure, possibly beyond repair — unlike Iraq, Yugoslavia is not blessed with oil revenues — and that they will help to create a country in Europe which will be a seething cauldron of hatred towards the West for decades.

This is not a happy prospect for the beginning of the new millennium, nor is it a happy prospect for the alliance which had hoped to be seen as the world's guarantor of peace and stability, the godfather of crisis management, a force for good.

Instead, Nato is finishing off the 20th century with an awesome air war against a leader who has revived all the horrific images of the worst excesses of the Nazis in the Second World War.

Achieving the right balance in the level of force to be used against Mr Milosevic will be a difficult choice. American officials, before the US-led six-week coalition air campaign in the 1991 Gulf War, talked of bombing Iraq back to the Middle Ages. It was an imprudent remark, wisely ignored by the political leaders who realised that a totally destroyed Iraq would create a dangerous vacuum in the region.

Similarly, the total elimination of Yugoslavia's infrastructure, with the destruction of every strategic bridge, oil refinery, power station, rail link and main road, would undermine whatever stability is left in the country once the crisis is over.

This is why Nato must be praying that ten more days will be enough to meet those daily repeated objectives. For bombing on the current scale, assuming the weather remains clear, will cause unbelievable damage in every corner of Yugoslavia if it has to continue for weeks on end.

Mr Robertson said yesterday that the airstrikes were "proportionate". While the "ethnic cleansing", rapes and murders continue in Kosovo, there are few, except obviously Mr Milosevic in his secure bunker in Belgrade and the airstrike opponents in Moscow, who would disagree.

However, if it is to be a long-haul bombing campaign — months, not weeks — waged in isolation, without the prospect of a land force being sent in to finish off the job in Kosovo, the wholesale destruction could begin to look disproportionate, even though, building for building, the Yugoslav military and paramilitary forces have caused more damage to properties in Kosovo, laying waste whole villages, than Nato has throughout the whole of Yugoslavia.

In the meantime, the principal protagonists on Nato's side — President Clinton and his stalwart Defence Secretary, William Cohen, in Washington, Tony Blair, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Robertson in London — declare with increasing intensity that the bombing will go on until the job has been done.

Even if Mr Milosevic fails to back down, Nato hopes that its attacks on Yugoslav forces in Kosovo over the next ten days will reduce their capabilities and their morale to such an extent that Kosovo will become what is being called a "permissive environment", in other words an environment in which Nato troops could be inserted with minimum resistance to begin the process of returning people to their shattered villages.

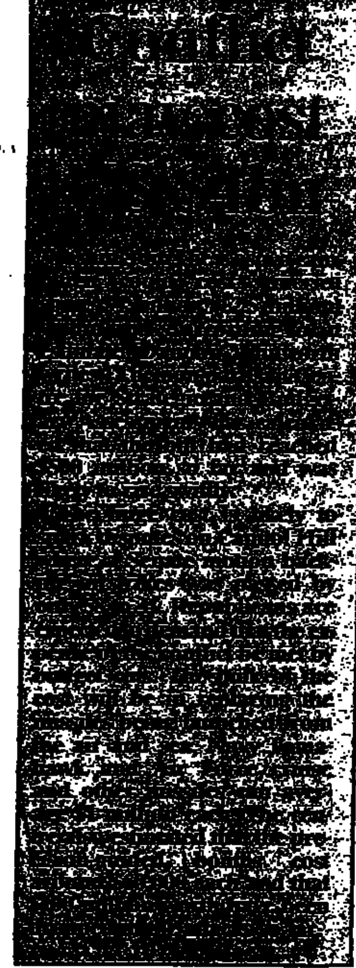
What could be interpreted as preliminary moves for a ground operation are under way, after the Pentagon's announcement on Monday that it was deploying 24 Apache helicopters and 13 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems to Albania, to be part of a bolstered Operation Allied Force.

The Apaches and rocket launchers will also come with a "force protection" package consisting of 14 Bradley armoured fighting vehicles and a platoon of about ten Abrams M1A1/M1A2 main battle tanks.

So, America's heavy armour is on the way. Although its mission will be to operate from the Albanian side of the border, it will provide the beginnings of vital new assets for the alliance in the Balkans region for possible ground action at a later stage.

The Dutch also announced yesterday that they were sending artillery to back up its units in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

But if Nato is serious about its intention to see all the 1.1 million displaced Albanians return to their own homes in Kosovo, it will need a lot more heavy armour in place to provide the right level of protection, even in a so-called permissive environment.



Rebels offer to be Nato's ground force

Sam Kiley hears an urgent plea by guerrilla leader for anti-tank guns

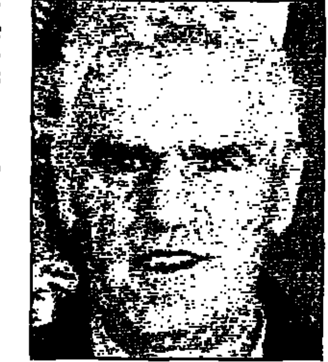
THE Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday launched a desperate appeal for military aid to defend up to half a million ethnic Albanians in villages the guerrillas still hold against the Serb onslaught and vowed to become "Nato's ground troops" in the Balkan campaign.

In an interview with *The Times* somewhere in northern Albania, Xheladin Gashi, a member of the KLA's general staff and a regional commander, said that his forces needed every kind of weapon.

"There are hundreds of thousands of civilians hiding in the mountains and in villages which we control. But they are in pockets and they could soon be overrun. We need weapons to defend them or the Serbs will overrun them," he said.

Listing a group of villages mostly in the west of Kosovo close to the border with Montenegro and Albania, he insisted that time was running out for his fighters who might soon be forced to retreat and leave the civilian population to the mercy of Serbs.

"We can protect our people ourselves. We now have more volunteers from all over Kosovo, Albania, western Europe and America, than we have weapons. We really need to have anti-tank guns. At the moment our men are trying to fight tanks with rifles," Mr Gashi, a former Yugoslav Army officer who has been high on the wanted list of the Serb secret police, said. "If they have to retreat, they can carry on a guerrilla war, but the civilians will be slaughtered."



Gashi: confronting Serb tanks armed with rifles

Nato members have been struggling with how to defend Kosovo's diminishing population of Albanians against Serb attacks without committing large numbers of ground troops to what would be a bloody campaign. They have been equally reluctant to arm or train the KLA for fear that this would imply a tacit recognition of the guerrilla movement's demands for independence from Yugoslavia.

There has been some acceptance that few Kosovo Albanians would ever return home to a country with any kind of a formal tie to Belgrade. But there remains the problem that the KLA has been divided and, since the Serbian attacks, its command structure has been almost shattered.

If the KLA were given weapons, the guerrillas would need close supervision to prevent the guns being turned on Kosovo's Serb minority.



ERIC DRAPER / AP

Hugging a child, an Albanian weeps on a refugee bus at Petrovec Airport, Macedonia. The refugees were herded onto a flight to Turkey despite leaving relatives behind

Turkey greets 1,200 exiles with hot meal

FROM REUTERS IN KIRKLARELI, TURKEY

MORE than 1,000 Kosovo refugees settled yesterday in prefabricated huts in western Turkey after being airlifted out of neighbouring Macedonia.

Officials said 1,200 people had been admitted to the camp in serene Balkan countryside near Kirklareli, close to Turkey's border with Bulgaria. Two more busloads of refugees stood outside the camp waiting to be processed.

But inside the barbed-wire perimeter children played and women hung out washing among the huts that were once home to a previous influx of refugees from Bosnia.

"Everybody here has been separated from their families. Macedonian police let only women and children on the planes," said Leke Zogaj, 18, who said he had spent three days without food and water in the no-man's-land between Kosovo and Macedonia. "I was only allowed to come because I was ill."

The first of the Kosovo Albanians to be airlifted out of Macedonia arrived late on Monday in Turkey, reeking and unwashed, and were transferred on buses to the nearby camp. One elderly woman carried off the plane died in a local hospital.

The regional Governor said all refugees received a hot meal as soon as they arrived at the camp. Many more of the thousands stranded in the fields on the edges of Macedonia are expected to arrive in Turkey in the coming days.

"The army is taking care of their food needs and is in the process of putting up tents nearby," the Governor, Kemal Onal, said. Four lorries stacked with mattresses and vegetables drew up outside the camp.

Turkey has pledged to accommodate up to 20,000 of those who have fled Kosovo for neighbouring Balkan countries. Turks feel deep historical and religious ties with the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo and the province's small Turkish minority resulting from 500 years of Ottoman rule of the Balkans.

Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said Nato would ensure that the refugees eventually returned. "We don't want to see a Kosovo cleansed of Kosovans."

Turkey's Red Crescent sent 13 lorries loaded with 64 tonnes of food, medicine and tents from Ankara yesterday bound for Albania. Another eight trucks were to be sent from Istanbul. It has contributed aircraft to the Nato action and says it can send ground troops if called upon.



UN issues emergency identity documents

Measures are being taken to stop Serbs from stripping refugees of their past, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

THE plight of Kosovo refugees who have been stripped of their papers is being eased by the issuing of temporary documents that certify their identities, the United Nations relief operation said yesterday.

Officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees are supplying provisional papers on the spot to all deportees robbed of their documents by Serbian forces before being allowed to cross the frontier.

"Taking away identity papers and ripping off car licence plates is as much a waste of time as barbaric. You cannot deprive people of their identity by just taking away their papers," said a UN spokesman in Geneva. "The simple statement of identity is being treated with the same weight as the actual papers."

The biggest problem concerned a small number of unaccompanied children who were too young to know their names, said the UN. Officials were seeking friends and relatives to trace their identities.

Nato and allied governments have accused the Serbians of waging an "Orwellian" campaign to deprive refugees of their culture and past by removing all documents and blowing up municipal archives in Kosovo to destroy title deeds, land registry papers and marriage records.

Nato reported yesterday that many refugees were also being forced to sign away their property rights "in exchange for a train ticket to oblivion". The practice was now well documented and would add to evidence being gathered for the prosecution of Serbian officials for war crimes, said Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman. Stripping people of their records fell into the war crime category and those responsible would eventually be punished, said Mr Shea.

The possession of papers had no bearing on the selection of refugees being evacuated from the region to other countries, said the UN.

The international relief operation was now insisting that all evacuation flights left with full passenger manifests, so displaced Kosovans could be traced. The UNHCR said it was concerned that the majority of the 1,360 Kosovans who were flown to Turkey on Monday had not been properly registered before they left.

"A special UNHCR team is en route to Skopje to handle future refugee registration," the organisation said yesterday.

Ceasefire 'is just a ploy'

Contined from Page 1

stand this proposal. Nato would never consider such an offer and Belgrade must have known this."

It was the second offer from Belgrade, following the aborted peace mission of Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister. The first offer, of a partial withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from Kosovo, was also dismissed by Nato.

The move by Mr Milosevic last night was seen as the latest evidence that the bombing campaign was beginning to have a significant impact on the Yugoslav leadership. The timing of the announcement was also being linked in Nato capitals to the fact that Mr Milosevic was now approaching the completion of his ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Mr Milosevic knew that Nato could not stop its bombing until all his troops had left Kosovo, refugees were allowed home and there was an international force under Nato command to guarantee the peace.

Milan Komnenic, the Yugoslav Information Minister, told French television that he was not surprised by the rejection of what he called a goodwill gesture.

The determined mood of the alliance to ignore the offer was given added emphasis after a day in which Nato bombers were thought to have achieved successes against Yugoslav troops and armour in Kosovo.

There was also one fatal bombing raid which ended in the deaths of 12 civilians and a wounded 28 more in the mining town Aleksinac. Nato admitted that it may have dropped a bomb in error on a block of flats.







Air raids scar city of culture on the Danube





Air raids on Novi Sad, which has no military targets, have pushed the people of this anti-Milosevic city with its fine buildings closer to Belgrade

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

NOVI SAD, once known as the Athens of Serbia, has become one of Nato's major targets in its air war against President Milosevic. Yet, as I recall it, there was little of military significance in or around this rambling city, bursting with pubs and full of Hungarians, Slovaks and Romanians drinking coffee in the Viennese rather than Belgrade manner.

It was the early 1990s and I was researching a profile of Monica Seles, the tennis player, a Novi Sader of Hungarian origin, and it was plain that the Danube city's military tradition had ended in 1849. Then, the garrison at Petrovaradin, the fortress high above the grey Danube, was under Austrian control but went over to Hungarian rebels under Kossuth. From the fortress they bombarded Croat troops. Two thirds of the city's buildings were destroyed. Some months later, in 1850, a German traveller remarked on "the magnitude of the disaster which has befallen the most admired and well-to-do town".

Now the city is under bombardment again. On Monday night it was the oil refinery; a few days earlier it was the bridge across the Danube. River traffic is blocked. Nato officials say the bombing of the bridge demonstrated the pinpoint accuracy of Allied weaponry since nearby housing blocks were untouched.

Yet phone calls to friends in the city paint a different picture, neither as grim as Serbian television propaganda portrays it nor exactly a Goya study of misery. But a sense of resentment pervades the city because, despite trying to keep its distance from Belgrade and from Mr Milosevic, it had been punished so thoroughly. Telephone links are now erratic, electricity flickers on and off for an hour or two.

Novi Sad, which means New Orchard, was the capital of the semi-autonomous region of Vojvodina. Mr Milosevic revoked that autonomy as surely as he ended the rights of the Kosovo Albanians. There was less at stake here for the dictator than in Kosovo, but Novi Sad was seen, nonetheless, as the cradle of the cultural and political rebirth of the third nation. It was from Novi Sad that the Serbs petitioned for their national rights under the Habsburgs.

Novi Sad was always more than a Serbian city. In modern Yugoslavia five languages had official status in the city — Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian and Ruthenian. When Mr Milosevic came to power in 1988 his first move was to engineer, with the help of mass nationalist rallies that were later staged in Kosovo, the ouster of the local Vojvodina leadership. The non-Serbs have never learnt to love Mr Milosevic or his attempt to turn the last corner of Balkan Central Europe into the first building-block of his plan for a greater Serbia.

The splintering of rump Yugoslavia, and with it the end of the dream of greater Serbia, is the necessary ingredient for Mr Milosevic's political demise. Yet the destruction of "military" targets in this proud, tree-lined city is, as could have been predicted, pushing Vojvodina closer to Belgrade.

When I called friends on Easter Monday, the air-raid sirens had just sounded but they knew there was no point in rushing to the cellars since the destruction of radar systems had given them insufficient notice. To them, the ending of an old poem about Novi Sad must read less true:

"The glorious town, it lies by hill and valley,
The bridge divides the Danube, boats float down."

And now? No bridge, no boats, no glory.



Cluster-bombing ends frustration of Harrier pilots

Aircrews elated at successful mission, writes **John Phillips** in Gioia del Colle

RAF HARRIER pilots used cluster-bombs for the first time against Serbia yesterday, hitting a variety of mobile targets in Kosovo in a daylight blitz hours after scoring "good hits" on a missile store with laser-guided bombs in a separate night raid near Pristina.

The officer commanding No 1 Fighter Squadron gave a thumbs-up sign from his cockpit to reporters watching by the runway as he taxied back to the hangars at the Gioia del Colle base in southern Italy after the operation. The wings of his fighter-bomber were carrying only two of the four distinctive green and white cluster-bomb canisters that were slung beneath them when he took off at the head of ten Harriers nearly two hours earlier.

"A few of the pilots that I have spoken to were confident that they hit the targets," said Group Captain Ian Travers Smith, an RAF spokesman. "They think they have taken out mobile or moving targets. The weapons they were using were RBL755 cluster-bomb units designed for anti-armour and anti-vehicle type targets primarily. There were a variety of targets hit in Kosovo."

Each cluster-bomb canister contains 147 bomblets the size of a beer can that are released when the bombs are dropped. Typically they form a sausage-like pattern that the pilots try to make overlap to cover a large rectangular area with what can be a "devastating" effect on tanks or other armoured vehicles such as those attacking villages in Kosovo, the spokesman said.



The RAF did not immediately say how many bombs were dropped, but reporters counted 20 canisters on five aircraft that took off, but counted only four when they returned.

In the early hours of yesterday, the flyers returned from a separate mission during which they dropped laser-guided 1,000lb Paveway II bombs not far from Pristina in a joint operation with RAF Tornados from Bruggen, Germany. The Harriers scored "good hits" against a building believed to contain stores of surface-to-air missiles, Wing Commander Graham Wright, the detachment commander here, said.

The attacks ended a frustrating eight-day period during which the Harriers had been unable to drop bombs, first because of low cloud and then because no mobile targets could be found.

"People were over the moon because we had done something productive," Wing Commander Wright said. "It is a huge rush when you see that these things work. There was a release of tension. It is like when a goal is scored in football and you think 'Yes'. There was some good banter going on."

The previous build-up of frustration was underlined by a poster stuck up on the operations hut used by RAF ground staff working on the Harriers. It was a cover of *Private Eye* magazine lampooning "Winstony Blair". "Never have so few bombs been dropped on so many," it quoted him saying. "We will not fight them on the beaches, we will not fight them on the hills, we will not fight them on the streets. They will never surrender."

After the raids the mood was different. "The pilots are professionals who got the results that they were seeking," Group Captain Travers Smith said. "Today they believe they





‘Surgical strike’ kills 12 civilians

Tom Walker in Aleksinac sees Nato’s innocent bomb victims

An injured Serb woman comforts her son as they lie in hospital beds at Aleksinac yesterday after Nato bombs destroyed a number of houses in the southern Serbian town

A SIMPLE MAN, a good labourer, husband and father, Dragan Miladinovic had earned little, but he had won the respect of all who knew him.

On Monday night the 67-year-old was killed by Nato, with his wife and daughter, as his neighbourhood was flattened by what Brussels calls precision bombing. "He was mincemeat, there was nothing much left of him," said Dragan's closest friend, Vlada Stojilkovic, yesterday, as he stared in disbelief at the pile of rubble next to his own partially collapsed house. "We built them together," he added in a monotone, still anaesthetised by shock.

Apart from the Miladinovics, nine others died and 28 were injured in the southern Serbian town of Aleksinac on Monday night, as Nato jets thundered overhead, dropping a line of bombs that destroyed two areas of homes and an ice-cream factory.

A hospital and an old people's home were badly damaged, and there was hardly a pane of glass left intact in the town centre. Nato did land one or two bombs in and around a dilapidated barracks at the town's edge, although yesterday it appeared to have been largely empty.

Aleksinac is a simple place where the now disused coalmine never provided enough jobs and the few factories worked only at full capacity in Tito's time. Like most Serbs, its 40,000 inhabitants have always kept one foot in their peasant farming past, surviving off the land for much of the past decade. A struggle with ethnic Albanians did not mean much until Monday night, when Nato planners decided to include Aleksinac in the campaign to fracture Slobodan Milosevic's military infrastructure. After the slaughter of the innocents — most of them elderly — that followed, Aleksinac is bemused about its place in the modern world.

"They're bombing us from the air because they're cowards. Why can't they come and fight on the ground?" complained the young soldier taking us round the ruins yesterday. Around him people carried on sweeping up shards of glass, stopping only to look at the foreigners in their midst. "If I could get that Sky Television reporter, I'd hang him," ventured one bystander.

The first bomb had completely destroyed eight houses in Dragkceta Milovanovica Street, one of Aleksinac's poorest areas. When we arrived, two bodies were being lifted from the rubble, covered in blankets, and a third was being driven away in a battered hearse. A worker described how the elderly woman was plucked from the broken concrete and bricks in a sitting position, mouth agape.

In the bomb crater at the centre of the rubble, a leg with a woollen sock on its foot protruded from beneath a joist. A bloodied torso lay a few feet away. Looking up and around in a wide arc beneath the rising sun, every building was peeling masonry, roof tiles and glass. A few workers made token attempts to find more survivors, but an air-raid siren sent many hurrying to their cellars again.

Kosovka Simonovic, a 69-year-old woman living on the less destroyed side of Dragkceta Milovanovica, said that she had been making coffee at about 9.30 on Friday evening when she heard the planes. "I went to get my uncle and the ground was already shaking. I stood in a doorway and watched the house fall apart," she said in wide-eyed terror. "As a 13-year-old I was in the bombing in the Second World War," she added, tears muddying her dust-covered face. "Everyone blames Clinton. The Nazis were better than him — at least we knew who the enemy was. By taking my house away, they've taken my life away too."

Her daughter Mitrovka, 48, said: "We are poor people, and what little we had has gone." Among the smashed relics of their lives on the sitting room floor, a faded portrait of Tito looked towards the open sky, where once there stood a roof.

Zorica Lukovic, 48, lived on the wrong side of the street, and her father, Jovan, and mother, Sofija, are both dead. A squat woman wearing black, she could barely speak. "What had they done against Nato?" she whispered.

Emerging from an old people's home, Vladimir Ieromin asked where the Russians were in Serbia's hour of need. "What are our brothers doing, they should be fighting for us," he said, lifting his trouser leg to show the shrapnel wounds he received from German bombing of Belgrade in 1941 — the 58th anniversary of which fell yesterday.

The Miladinovics lived a few hundred yards away, where the second bomb fell. The scene was the same — rubble, incinerated cars, split trees and collapsed telegraph poles. A doll lay amid the family's destroyed house: school books were scattered all about. A passer-by had picked up a hand-knitted tablecloth and was trying to mend its broken threads, her tears falling on to the pavement.

A woman with immaculate English, Lidia Petrovic, begged us to tell the world. "I lived in London once," she said. "Do people there understand?" A cyclist stopped beside us as we prepared to leave. The shock had subsided and anger was setting in.

"I fought on the front in the Second World War and I'm ready to take a rifle in my hands again," he spat. "I'm 71 now, but tell Clinton that Petronia Milanovic is ready to beat him, the bastard."



The destruction of part of the central residential area of Aleksinac after the bombs struck early yesterday

German pilots in medal dilemma

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS, in combat for the first time since the Second World War, face a pressing problem: how to honour the brave in a land without war heroes. Iron Crosses have been abolished — though German Tornados have a vaguely similar cross painted on their fuselages — and there is no medal to pin on the chests of returning pilots.

"For soldiers from France, England, Russia or America it is taken for granted that medals should be attached to uniforms," lamented *Die Welt* newspaper. Germany, by contrast, is wary of reviving old military traditions.

In 1980 a Good Service medal was introduced "for exemplary conduct", and around 6,000 soldiers have won this award. In 1996 a "peacekeeping" medal was established. Both medals have been designed to look like harmless prefect's badges. But so far there is nothing to reward combat valour because Germans have not been involved in armed conflict since 1945.

Reviving the Iron Cross would be controversial, especially for a Social Democrat-controlled Defence Ministry. The Iron Cross, established by King Frederick William III of Prussia in 1813, had three classes — Iron Cross (second class), Iron Cross (first class) and the Grand Cross.

Hitler, who won an Iron Cross (first class) in the First World War, established the Knights Cross, which was positioned between the Iron Cross and the Grand Cross. During the Second World War, the Grand Cross was won only by Hermann Goering, the head of the Luftwaffe. Yet Germans agree that the Tornado pilots have to be recognised for their daily missions over Serbian territory.

The Government is reluctant to discuss openly the success rate of its Tornados but defence sources say they have been hitting their targets, mainly radar systems. "There are always two sides to a war," said one German Army officer. "If we start singing the praises of our pilots, then pacifists will complain and the backlash will be stronger if someone gets shot down."



Iron Cross, now defunct

While American pilots paint their "kills" on the sides of their F15s, the German attitude is different: four psychiatrists have been assigned to the Tornado unit in Piacenza to help flight crews cope with their post-bombing trauma.

Clearly the Germans would prefer their combat troops to be regarded as victims of a broader war, in need of counselling rather than as heroes.

Parish answers prayers with £½m collection

Parishioners raised funds for a community centre overnight, reports Ruth Gledhill

A PARSON who appealed to his parish for funds to restore the Victorian church hall found the next morning that his plea had produced nearly half a million pounds.

Canon Patrick Whitworth, Rector of All Saints, Weston, near Bath, prayed for divine intervention when he launched the appeal to restore the hall, a former village school built in the middle of the last century. But even he was surprised to find pledges totalling £438,000 in the collection box placed at the front of the church during morning worship.

Officials at the headquarters of the Church of England in Church House, Westminster, yesterday described it as "another example of the commitment and confidence of the Church today".

All Saints, a thriving evangelical parish, is one of the largest and most generous in Bath and Wells, paying about £80,000 in annual "quota" to the diocese. It has a congregation of between 400 and 500 every Sunday, and, besides a rector and curate with stipends paid from diocesan funds, the church employs a youth worker and administrator from its own funds.

The hall, a Grade II listed building, is to be renovated to create a "mission interface centre", where the church will run Alpha courses, the introduction to Christianity designed by the country's richest and possibly most successful parish church, Holy Trinity Brompton in Knightsbridge. It will also serve as a centre for youth groups, wedding receptions, playgroups and other community activities.

Canon Whitworth, who spent five years as a curate at Holy Trinity Brompton, before moving to Weston in 1995, said: "I am stunned and thrilled by the amazing generosity shown by everyone.

"Now we have had all this money pledged to us we will probably be approaching trusts outside the church to raise the difference. It is a fantastic project that will benefit not only local churchgoers but also the local community and I am very excited by it."

Villagers had long dreamed of turning the old school into a modern community hall and conference centre but were put off by the £690,000 estimate for the work.

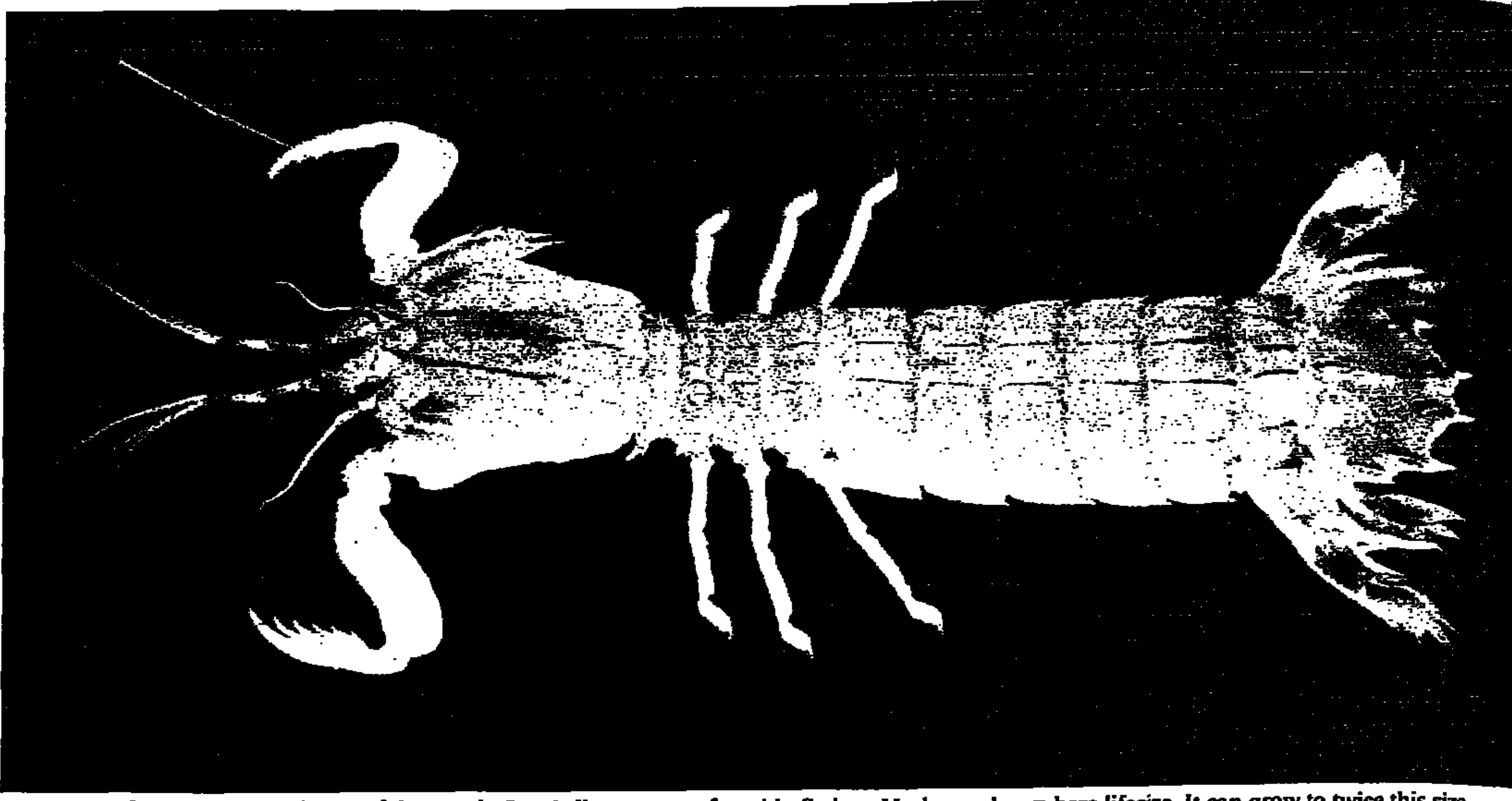
But Canon Whitworth was undeterred and after obtaining planning permission he set about raising the cash, sending details of the plans to nearly 300 church members, parishioners and villagers.

The diocesan development fund contributed £10,000 and a further £10,000 came in from other charitable sources.

But it was after the collection box was placed at the front of the church during morning worship that the cash flowed in. Canon Whitworth spent a week sifting through the slips from 160 addresses and announced the results at the service on Sunday. Most had pledged cash in signed covenants to be spread over four years, while the 25 members of the church council raised £130,000 between them.

With about £458,000 raised, including cash handed in before the church's "Gift Day" — a concept borrowed from Holy Trinity Brompton — villagers still need £220,000.

The Rev John Andrews, spokesman for the Bath and Wells diocese, said: "This is one of the larger churches in the diocese. The people are not rich but they are very generous. This is sacrificial giving."



One of the smaller specimens of the speedy Sun Splitter prawns found in Sydney Harbour, shown here lifesize. It can grow to twice this size

Jurassic prawn's a real cracker

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

FOR Australians, throwing a prawn on the barbecue will never be quite the same. A giant crustacean previously unknown to science, is making its debut on the Australian menu.

It has emerged from Sydney Harbour and dates back to the Jurassic era. Marine biologists have been impressed by the power of this ancient variety of Mantis prawn. It is one of the fastest predators on Earth, able to strike its prey with a claw in 5 to 8 milliseconds, inflicting a deep wound. Its speed has earned it the nickname Sun Splitter. While new to biology, the species, which looks like a cross between a lobster, a prawn and a praying mantis, has been increasingly appearing on local fish stalls. Its size alone will impress the neighbours at the next backyard barbecue. It grows to between 20 and 40 centimetres.

The identification of the giant prawn, which has a 200-million-year ancestry, is part of a two-year research project into crustacea in the coastal waters of New South Wales. Marine biologists believe it is one of the most complex invertebrates found.

While the Mantis prawn is a well-known family of crustacea, this variety has kept out of view. Scientists now plan to use the prawn in neurobiology studies. They are impressed by its advanced eyesight — it is believed to have the most complicated vision of any invertebrate — and its agility. Shane Ahyong, research fellow at the Australian Museum in Sydney, said: "The speed of strike is one of the fastest animal movements."

The creature has been named *Erogosquilla Grahami* after one of Mr Ahyong's collaborators, and Mr Ahyong is in no doubt about the significance of the discovery: "It would be the equivalent of finding a new species of kangaroo.

"One of the lessons from this is that we know far less about marine fauna than we should," he said.

There is no mistaking the monster prawn in the local fish market. It is more than twice the size of the normal variety. But even if it proves increasingly popular with seafood lovers, there is no immediate danger of supplies running out. *Erogosquilla grahami* is abundant in Sydney Harbour. No one has harvested the species commercially.

Mr Ahyong said that the abundance is a good sign: "It means there is a huge diversity of life in some areas despite other areas that have been polluted quite horribly."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl blown out to sea on dinghy

Rescuers were last night searching for a 12-year-old girl who was blown out to sea on an inflatable dinghy off the Lincolnshire coast near Skegness. As darkness fell, hopes of finding her alive were fading. Coastguards said she had jumped out of her toy boat when strong winds gusted her away from the beach at Huttoft. The two friends she was with made it back to shore. The parents of the girl, who has not been named, were on the beach, but her father and another man were unable to reach her. A search by two inshore lifeboats, an offshore vessel and an RAF helicopter was suspended at nightfall.

Assault charge

The 18-year-old daughter of Paul Whitehouse, the Chief Constable of Sussex, has been charged with assaulting two of his constables. Frances Whitehouse, from Hove, East Sussex, was arrested as police were investigating a fight between two men in Brighton.

Nun accused

Sister Alphonso, a 57-year-old nun who was born Marie Docherty, appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court to face charges of cruelty against 23 girls at Nazareth House children's homes in Aberdeen and Midlothian between 1962 and 1980. She denies the allegations.

Official cleared

An official at the Radio Authority was cleared of allegations that she accepted a free flight from an Asian community station. Janet Lee, deputy head of programming and advertising, was suspended after claims were made to police.

Red Nose record

Red Nose Day 1999 has smashed previous records and made £27.4 million so far. Comic Relief said the charity extravaganza had made £7 million more than the sum raised by the last Red Nose Day in 1997 at this stage.

Constable jailed

A police constable was jailed for six weeks by magistrates in Liverpool for drink-driving and failing to stop after knocking down a student in his car. Chris Adeniran, 30, who pleaded guilty, is likely to lose his job.

Parrot overdose

Patrice Kinloch, 26, received £330 in an out-of-court settlement at Glasgow Sheriff Court after her pet cockatiel, Jinky, died when a vet injected it with 1,000 times the dose of a drug normally used for cattle to cure the bird's mites.

Lifers spend too long in prison

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SIXTY per cent of prisoners serving life sentences are spending longer in jail than judges recommended because of inefficiency among prison and probation staff, according to a report from Home Office watchdogs.

One man jailed for the murder of his wife should have been released after eight years but has served a total of 24 years because risk assessments, pre-release training and preparatory work have been constantly delayed.

Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Sir Graham Smith, the Chief Inspector of Probation, said yesterday that jails were often unprepared for release of life prisoners, resulting in a huge waste of time, and that reconviction rates for those released during a life sentence were much lower than for other offenders.

The report shows that before capital punishment was scrapped in 1966 the average sentence for a "lifer" was eight years. In 1997 it was 14 years for murderers and 13 years for other criminals, and 296 prisoners had served more than 20 years.

Between 1987 and 1997 the number of life prisoners rose from 2,399 to 3,721 and is set to double by 2007. Sir David said that the increase was caused by legal changes allowing life sentences for offences such as rape and drug dealing.

The Prison Service scheme for handling "lifers" and their release was set up when there was a much smaller number in prison. Sir David said that keeping them in prison longer than necessary was a waste of money and could cause discipline problems within jails.

The Home Office has announced that a steering group will oversee improvements to the system.

The pay's the thing for business Bard

Executives will study Shakespeare plays to learn how to tread on the board, reports Alan Hamilton

ONCE more into the boardroom, dear friends, once more, or close the wall up with our English dread of the Bard. A management college is turning to Shakespeare for lessons on how to survive in business.

Do you want the art of leadership? Henry V is your man. Want to know how to avoid being stabbed in the back? Learn from Julius Caesar. Got some dirty work to do and haven't the stomach for it? Have a word with Lady Macbeth.

Cranfield University School of Management in Bedfordshire has teamed with the Globe Theatre in Southwark on London's South Bank to offer courses on what Shakespeare can teach today's corporate executive. The idea is the inspiration of Richard Olivier, *director son of the man* who set a benchmark in Bardic interpretation.

"The people who run today's multinational corporations face the same dilemmas and responsibilities as the kings and dukes of 1600," he said yesterday. "Shakespeare is about power and responsibility. He is not a kitchen-sink dramatist."

It is hoped that business careerists will pay £1,000 a seat for a two-day course at the Globe, in which they will not only study the moral questions posed by the Bard but also learn basic techniques of acting — increasingly regarded as an essential adjunct to power in the boardroom where role-playing can be a crucial skill.

The clear favourite among plays for power-players is *Henry V*, an examination of leadership. Nicholas Janni, a visiting fellow at Cranfield who is helping to run the courses, listed the dilemmas facing the English king before Agincourt: "What right does he have to this leadership? How does he deal with traitors, and why did he not see the treachery coming? How does he rally his troops and get them to follow him?

"Then, as he endures the long dark night of the soul, how much should he role-play and how much should he be himself? Then, with the battle won, how do you turn victory into a garden, and how do you nurture yourself in success?"

Gentlemen in England now abed will clearly think themselves accurs'd if they miss the course, to be held in June. But there will be others. Shake*speare's potential for manage*ment training is endless, according to Olivier.

Julis Caesar is an obvious one, and not just about backstabbing. According to the course organisers, it is about the positive and negative potential of organisational politics, it is about learning to cope with the fallout of betrayal, and it is about the morals of an illegal action and when it is justified. Well, the evil that men do lives after them.

The Merchant of Venice might have lessons for credit card issuers who demand a high annual rates, but it is also a candidate on the Cranfield list for teaching not only issues of justice and mercy but also the difference between male and female perceptions of those ideals. Don't strain yourself, Portia.

Olivier himself is much taken by the didactic potential of *The Winter's Tale*, although given its stage direction of "Bohemia, a desert country near the sea" it should perhaps not be taken entirely at face value. But it is a work about the ever-changing world, and how, when we are fired for being too old, or too fuddy-duddy, or unable to operate the new computer system, we must accept our fate and move on with good grace: "Bequeath to *death your numbness; for* from him dear life redeems you."

And, says Olivier, there are lessons in *Measure For Measure* on how human and sexual desires intrude on the path to the chief executive officer's chair: "Hence shall we see if power change purpose, what our seemers be."

And then there is *Macbeth*, which according to Olivier is not so much about getting *someone to do your dirty* work, but about the negative role of becoming obsessed with power for its own sake. And therein lies the difference with *Hamlet*. Olivier said: "What kind of a context does one create in which to take action? Hamlet cannot get clear what his context is, and that is a big question for corporate managers; their parameters are becoming ever less clear."

Finally, there is the ultimate challenge of *King Lear*, which might at some future date figure on the Cranfield syllabus. Lear, says Olivier, is a man who wants to half give up his power, yet does not entirely want to lose control.

And there, in Shakespeare's greatest creation, is the nugget of advice for all business people to heed before their old white heads render them beyond improvement courses: "Keep thy foot out of brothels, thy hand out of plackets, thy pen from lenders' books, and defy the foul fiend."

Arts, page 32

HOW TO GET AHEAD WITH THE RIGHT PLOT

Desired quality: leading an unwilling workforce into a life-or-death sales battle with a rival, when other board members are plotting against you. **Study:** Henry V

Desired quality: avoiding becoming obsessed with power for its own sake to the extent that your wife encourages you to murder the chairman. **Study:** Macbeth

Desired quality: knowing what you are supposed to be doing in a business environment that never seems to stand still, with its goalposts for ever on the move. **Study:** Hamlet

Desired quality: not letting personal distractions get in the way of business decisions. **Study:** Measure For Measure



A model for today's keen business leader: Henry V, as played by Kenneth Branagh

Accident pilots risked disaster

By Arthur Leathley

THE captain of a jet carrying 220 passengers that scraped the ground while attempting to land in a storm apparently relished the challenge and took unnecessary risks, an accident report said yesterday.

The captain of the Airtours International Boeing 757 tried three times to land before heading for another airport with low reserves of fuel. The co-pilot, 34, failed to challenge his "flawed decisions" on the flight from Birmingham to the Dominican Republic last year, the report said. The captain is alleged by passengers to have joked as he struggled to bring the aircraft down.

After the first attempted landing the aircraft circled the airport at Puerto Plata. A second attempt was also abandoned but the captain and co-pilot tried again, relying on their vision rather than using standard instruments in the cockpit. When the aircraft swung round for the third attempt, the captain's spectacles were dislodged. The pilots failed to stabilise the aircraft at the minimum permitted altitude of 400 ft, but continued their attempt, contravening protocol. The plane veered off the runway, scraping on to scrubland.

The report by the Dominican Republic Authorities, published by the British Air Accidents Investigation Branch, said that Airtours had demoted the captain, 53. He and the co-pilot have since undergone further training.

Helicopter crash man panicked in fog

By Helen Johnstone

THE helicopter in which a couple crashed into the sea on Easter Monday had flown low over a holiday camp minutes before the accident, it was claimed yesterday.

Paul Burgess, a millionaire businessman, and his wife, Lisa, 27, who is two months pregnant, were recovering at home in Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire, after spending 90 minutes in icy water off the south coast.

An official at the Devon-based air traffic control centre that monitored the flight claimed that Mr Burgess, 37, may have panicked after he flew into dense fog and becamed disorientated as his two-seater Bell Jet Ranger lost height off Charmouth, Dorset.

The official, who cannot be identified, said that Mr Burgess got into difficulties soon after taking off. "He was shouting and did not seem to take in the advice he was being given by controllers."

At one stage Mr Burgess had flown 100ft over a holiday camp at Budleigh Salterton in Devon.

The helicopter had then headed towards Dorset, where it was lost on radar. The official added: "He must have gone below a certain height. *We think he was trying to find* a pocket in the cloud and fog but was getting more disorientated and panicky."

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch confirmed that it was investigating the incident.

Sweet salesman 'had sticky fingers'

By A Correspondent

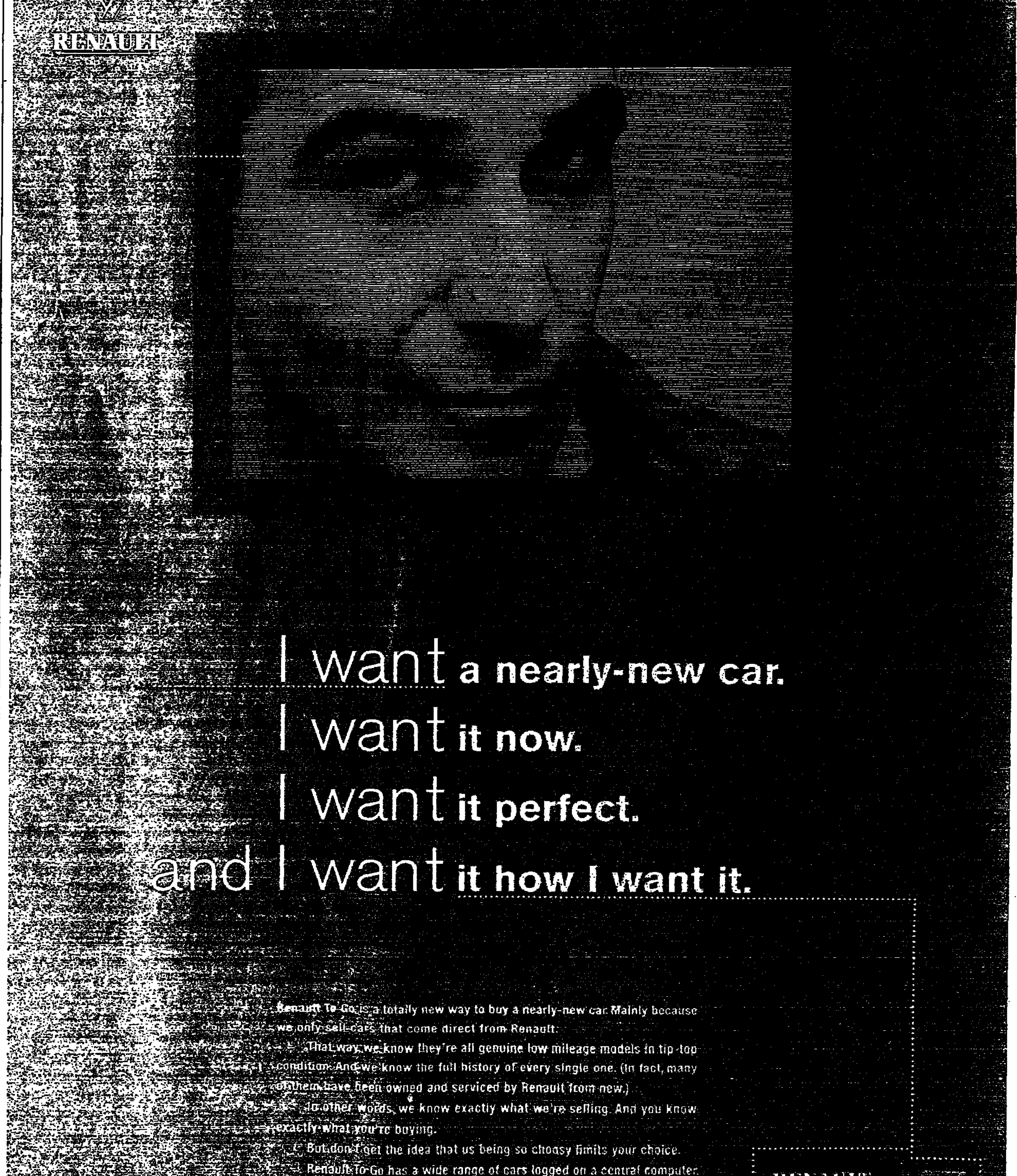
A SALESMAN stole more than a million sweets from his employers, a court was told yesterday.

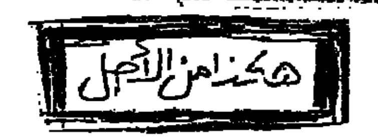
Sidney Hamilton should have had more than two million penny sweets in his lock-up when managers made a spot check but they found almost half were missing. Exeter Crown Court was told that the 37-year-old sales representative supplemented his commission by selling them and pocketing the money.

Hamilton, of Kingsteignton, south Devon, denies stealing £11,000 worth of sweets from Wisepenny Ltd over ten months in 1997.

Geoffrey Mercer, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hamilton ordered sweets each week by telephone and they were delivered to his lock-up premises in Newton Abbot. "In October 1997, the regional sales manager carried out a stock check and found the value of stock to be about £11,500. He should have had nearly £23,000." He said that Mr Hamilton must have sold the sweets and kept the money.

The trial continues





Suspects hear grim toll of bomb victims

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL AT CAMP ZEIST

THE LOCKERBIE



TRIAL

ONE by one, all 270 names of the Lockerbie bomb victims were read out yesterday to the two Libyans suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103.

On their first full day in Scottish custody Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 46, and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh, 42, sat for two hours as Dumfries and Galloway police, pausing for translation, read out the detailed warrant outlining the charges against them.

They were then fingerprinted, photographed and provided DNA samples before appearing separately before Graham Cox, QC, Sheriff Principal of Strathclyde South, Dumfries and Galloway.

The five-minute hearing took place at Camp Zeist, the 100-acre former US Air Force base in The Netherlands where the pair will be tried under Scottish law. Hanging on the wall was a royal coat of arms, made of polystyrene, which had been brought from Scotland.

The men made no pleas and were committed for further examination until a hearing next week when committal proceedings begin on charges of murder, conspiracy to murder and contravention of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

Each was accompanied by a Scottish advocate, solicitor and Libyan representative, and spoke in Arabic only to confirm their names. The hearing took place within the police station where they were taken after being delivered to The Netherlands from Libya by the UN on Monday night.

Neither man wore handcuffs and the sheriff and the advocates were not wearing wigs, in keeping with usual procedure at committal hearings in chambers.

Mr al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimeh are now in a temporary prison block on the site, near Utrecht, guarded by more than 100 Scottish police and prison officers. The two-storey building is divided into two. On one side is the police station and on the other is the prison, with coils of razor wire along the walls and roof, metal grilles over the windows, and floodlights and closed-circuit television cameras overlooking the exercise yard.

Technically the trial must begin within 110 days of next week's committal. The defence is expected to ask for an adjournment to prepare their case. In the meantime, work will begin on building the prison where the men will be held during the trial and the courthouse, which will be housed within a former elementary school used by 32nd Squadron US Air Force during the Cold War.

Court officials said that the suspects were being treated exactly like any other Scottish prisoners and that the court procedures were being conducted as they would at any other court in Scotland. "The only thing that is unique is where it is taking place," one judicial source said.



An armed Scottish policeman checks a vehicle entering HM Prison Zeist yesterday

Scots guards go Dutch until trial begins

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE HM Prison sign is up and Celtic's results are on Ceefax, but the guard dogs and the breakfast sausages are still Dutch in this patch of The Netherlands that has become a temporary sliver of Scotland.

Few of the 200 Scottish police, prison officers and support staff guarding the two prisoners in Zeist will ever see the suspected Libyan intelligence agents whose trial is the reason for everyone being on this 100-acre site near Utrecht. The pair are kept deep within the former air force camp on the wooded site.

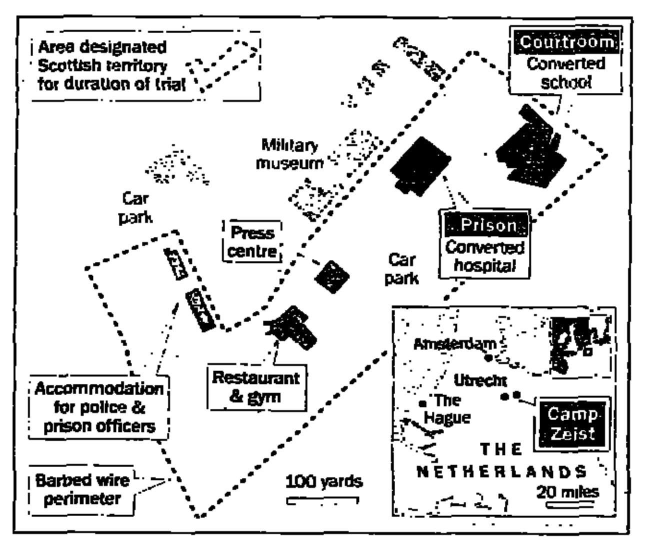
The men entrusted with the task of arranging the guard on them until the trial, expected next year, are Detective Chief Superintendent Tom McCulloch of Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary; Jim Ballantyne, the newly appointed governor of HM Prison Zeist, and his deputy, Eddie Gordon. With them are police from all eight Scottish forces, who are assigned for 12-week stints, spending alternate weeks in The Netherlands and at home with their families.

Prison offices will serve similar rotations, but fortnightly. All will live on the base, surrounded by a barbed-wire perimeter fence and patrolled by guards with sub-machineguns and bulletproof jackets. Canine security is provided by Dutch alsatians to avoid quarantine difficulties. Although there is no bar, drink will be available when the camp is fully up and running.

The Dutch caterers in the canteen ensure there is little distinctive Scottish flavour to mealtimes, with a typical breakfast consisting of eggs, Dutch sausage, bread, cold meats and tiny packets of Rice Krispies and cornflakes. The canteen does, however, have cable television which broadcasts BBC1 and other English and foreign language channels. Football fans are already querying whether Manchester United, Celtic and Rangers fixtures will be screened and others are setting up a sports and social club to play Dutch teams.

Conditions for Mr al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimeh are similar to those of Category A remand prisoners in Scottish jails, although their cells are about twice as large. They have a window but no television, and the bath and shower are outside the cell

The Libyans will wear their own clothes and will be allowed a few possessions such as books and newspapers, but probably not radios. They will be permitted visits by anyone granted security clearance.



Libya's rehabilitation starts on the beaches

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LIBYA is poised for a swift return to the international community. Tourists are looking forward to a return to some of the finest beaches on the Mediterranean, while British businessmen are preparing to sign huge oil and airline contracts.

The suspension of United Nations sanctions has opened the door to tourism in a country ready to welcome back Europeans. Libyan Arab Airlines announced yesterday that it was considering a resumption of international flights, and will publish a new schedule today. An application for a new licence to land in Britain is expected soon.

Libya, which is three times the size of France but has a population of barely five million, boasts some of the finest Roman ruins in North Africa and sweeping beaches that have seen hardly a tourist for the past decade. Leptis Magna, with its paved streets, colossal cornices and a monumental arch, was once a city to rival Rome, and the birthplace of the Roman emperor Septimius Severus. Libya hopes it will swiftly draw Europeans back in their thousands.

Other well-known sites include Cyrenaica, an ancient Greek colony with beautiful gardens.

Some of the first to visit will be veterans of the Second World War and the families of Allied soldiers buried in Libya. Previous attempts to organise reunions and pilgrimages were hampered by poor political relations and the lack of air links.

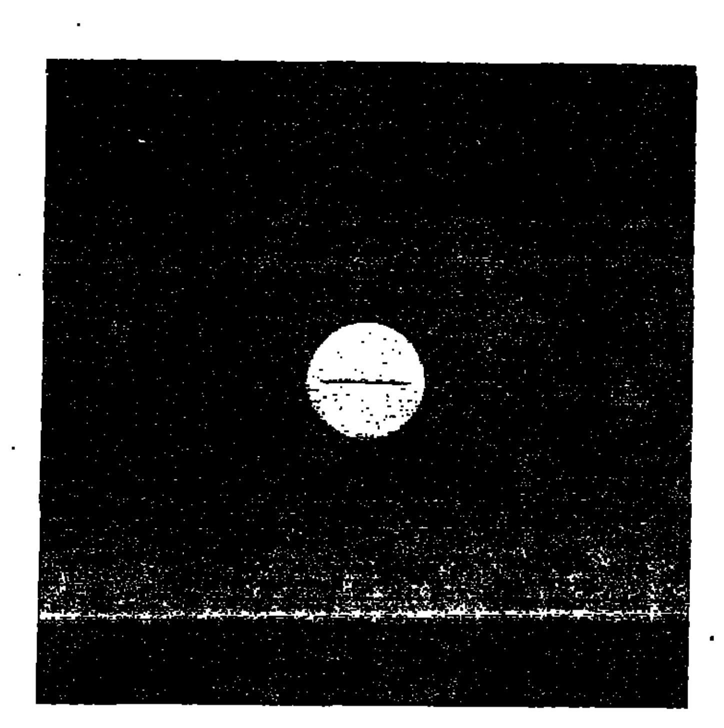
A resumption of flights will also boost trade. Britain is well placed to clinch big export orders for new oil industry equipment. In recent months, Libya has also been holding talks with British Aerospace on what is believed to be a large order.

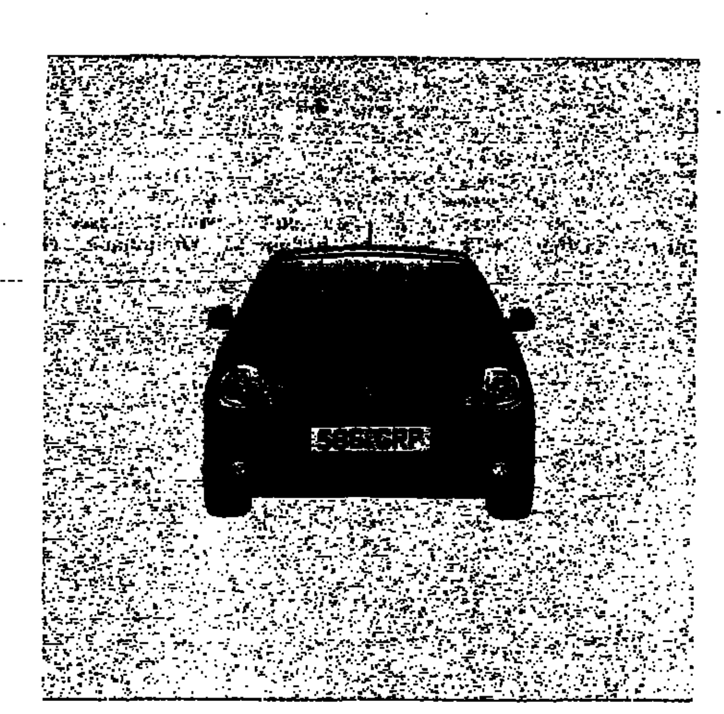
Diplomatic relations will take longer. The Government has made clear that Libya can set up a consulate in Scotland if the trial of the two Lockerbie suspects results in their conviction and imprisonment in Glasgow. But the reopening of embassies depends on progress on the issue of the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher in 1984 by a shot said to have been fired from the Libyan Embassy. Libya has never admitted responsibility, and the police are investigating claims in a television documentary that the shot may not have come from the Embassy.

Since relations were broken, Libya's interests have been handled by Saudi Arabia and Britain's in Tripoli have been handled by Italy.

Yesterday Lamberto Dini, Italy's Foreign Minister, arrived in Tripoli to signal a European welcome for Libya's return to the international community. European Union foreign ministers are expected shortly to invite Libya to rejoin the Europe-Arab dialogue and to take part in investment and development meetings. America has no plans to lift its trade embargo, imposed before the Lockerbie bombing in response to what it said was support for terrorism.

Return to Libya, page 24





SNP 'hiding plan for vote'

Labour accuses nationalists of pursuing Scottish independence by stealth, reports **Jason Allardyce**

THE CAMPAIGN to win control of Scotland's first parliament in 300 years began yesterday with Labour accusing nationalists of hiding their plans for independence.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Labour leader, opened his party's election campaign by accusing the Scottish National Party of an "exercise in dishonesty" over its plans for a referendum on independence.

His comments, which infuriated the SNP leadership, were prompted by the nationalists' decision to put their commitment to independence and a referendum within four years at the bottom of a ten-point pledge card. Other low-key issues, including abolishing Private Finance Initiatives and commitments to land reform, featured more prominently.

Addressing a rally in Edinburgh's Parliament Square, Mr Dewar said: "This must be the first time in political history that a separatist party has tried deliberately to conceal its sole purpose for existing.

"I say to the SNP that you can tear up your ten points but what you must do above all is start telling Scotland the truth. If they win on May 6 I believe they will start filing for an expensive and messy divorce from Britain."

Mr Dewar said that the SNP had already made clear that it they would begin negotiations on independence the day after they won the election.

But Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, denied that the party was trying to hide its commitment to independence, which he said still remained at the heart of its campaign strategy. "If we do win an overall majority, then of course we would ask Westminster for negotiations," he said.

"The decision on independence is a decision made in a referendum. It has to be made in a straight question — it has to be a straight yes or no."

Mr Dewar said that Scots faced a stark choice at the polls between social justice and a divorce from the rest of Britain that would raise taxes and cost jobs.

"What we are seeing now is an attempt at a disordered retreat and an admission that the one reason for their existence is the reason on which they cannot be elected ... They are now a party that will say anything to win," he said.

Mr Dewar also praised the work of Tony Blair and the late Labour leader John Smith, which he said had played a vital role in achieving a Scottish Parliament.

Earlier, the SNP launched its campaign saying that its pledge to forgo the penny tax cut and invest in public services would be the defining issue of the contest. Mr Salmond said: "The contest between investment in public services and a penny tax bribe is one that the SNP will win decisively."

Mr Salmond said that Scots would judge the issue on their own experience in hospitals, housing schemes and classrooms, and accused Labour of being run by "remote control" from London.

He rejected suggestions that a second-place finish would better suit the party's long-term goals by allowing them to mount effective opposition to a fledgeling Labour executive. "The SNP is trying to win this campaign and win it for Scotland and we have put forward policies that we believe the people of Scotland will rally to in the next four weeks," he said.

Mr Salmond dismissed opinion polls suggesting his party was lagging badly behind Labour, saying "Time will tell in the next four weeks whether I'm right or Gordon Brown is right."

Mr Dewar, who is tomorrow expected to announce the creation of 300 jobs in Glasgow through American investment, later told activists in Bathgate to go all-out to defeat the SNP and independence. "The message must be that if you don't believe in it don't vote for it," he said

The Liberal Democrats played down speculation about their role as potential power brokers in the Scottish parliament when they launched their campaign with a pledge to double spending on school books and equipment (Gillian Harris writes).

Jim Wallace, the party's Scottish leader, who is expected to form a coalition government with the largest single party at Holyrood, said that his party would enter coalition talks once the votes were counted. But he repeated his promise that the Lib Dems would not form a coalition with any party advocating a referendum on independence during the first term in office, effectively ruling out partnership with the SNP.

The Liberal Democrats, who have declared their willingness to use the so-called tartan tax to fund increased spending on education, plan to invest an extra £60 million on education in the first year of government, equivalent to £80 per pupil.

MIKE WILKINSON



Donald Dewar boards Labour's Holyrood "battle bus" in Edinburgh yesterday. He said that independence would cost jobs and necessitate tax increases



LINKS

www.scottish-devolution.org.uk
Scottish Office site with general information on Scottish parliament, including its make-up, powers, voting system and building design
www.scotland.org.uk
general directory with information on Scottish politics and parties
www.scotland.gov.uk
general Scottish Office directory

Plaid Cymru on a high

PLAID CYMRU kicked off the campaign for the Welsh assembly elections yesterday, promising "a new beginning for Wales" and claiming its current support is the highest in the party's 75 years.

Dafydd Wigley, MP, the party president, said confidence was high that Labour would be denied an overall majority of the 60 seats in the vote in 30 days. Recent opinion polls have put support for Plaid Cymru at 29 per cent compared with 10 per cent at the general election.

Speaking as his candidates gathered at Cardiff Bay, site of the assembly, Mr Wigley said: "We have made up tremendous ground since the general election and have fully established ourselves as the only credible alternative to Labour in Wales. People, particularly in the industrial Valleys, have seen what one-party government can do, and I think they are determined to see that doesn't happen in the assembly."

While Labour acknowledges that the nationalists are its greatest threat, the party intends to concentrate its campaign on showing voters how the Government has already delivered on key issues such as the minimum wage and boosting child benefits. Labour's assembly manifesto is expected to be published next week. The Liberal Democrats will unveil their proposals today; the Conservatives launch their campaign tomorrow.

Labour policies 'set by London'



Tony Blair is accused of having too tight control of the Scottish Labour Party, in the first of a series of Conservative posters in the election campaign for the Holyrood parliament. The poster, unveiled yesterday, uses a photograph of Westminster and the slogan: "Scottish Labour Policy. Here. Here." The Tories claimed that Labour's policies for the Scottish parliament were dictated by the London party. Raymond Robertson, the chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, said that Labour had talked "endlessly" about devolution for 18 years. He claimed that it was "the supreme irony" that Mr Blair now refused to devolve "so much as a scrap of real power to the Scottish Labour Party".

Building block falls

The Government is expected to pay more than £400,000 for three former council houses that stand in the way of the new Scottish parliament building in Edinburgh. The price has been agreed after almost a year of negotiations with Edinburgh City Council and two private owners who bought the properties under the right-to-buy legislation. One estate agent described the 1950's terraced homes as "unprepossessing and architecturally unfashionable" and worth little more than £50,000. The Scottish Office has refused to confirm the purchase price but said that a deal had been struck and the properties would now be demolished. The council's property services committee is expected to agree to sell one property to the Scottish Office for £117,000. It is understood that the private owners will be offered about £150,000 each.

Scargill misses launch

Arthur Scargill yesterday cancelled his speech to launch the Socialist Labour Party's manifesto for the Scottish Parliament election campaign. Mr Scargill, a founder member, rang party colleagues an hour before he was due to speak in Glasgow to say that he could not attend because he was negotiating a pay rise for National Union Mineworkers' members employed by RJB Mining. The SLP has pledged to abolish unemployment and double the minimum wage if elected to Holyrood. The party, which expects to win two or three seats, plans to wind down the nuclear industry and develop wave, wind and solar power, as well as lobby Westminster to abolish VAT and raise corporation tax.

Quote of the day

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, on the Scottish National Party's ten-point election pledge, which puts independence last:

'This must be the first time in political history that a separatist party has tried deliberately to conceal its sole purpose for existing from the electorate'

AGENDA

Today:
The Chancellor Gordon Brown officially launches the Scottish Labour election campaign with Scottish party leader Donald Dewar in the party's new media centre in Glasgow.
The Liberal Democrat manifesto is launched in Edinburgh and the SNP leader Alex Salmond will be campaigning on the nationalist battlebus across the west of Scotland.

When the telephone is a pain in the neck

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

OFFICE workers who spend hours hunched over the telephone and tapping at a computer are putting themselves at risk of more than a pain in the neck. A condition christened "phone neck" can cause problems in the spine, arms and hands, researchers have found.

The musculoskeletal condition is caused by gripping the telephone between the head and shoulders, leaving both hands free to use a keyboard and take notes. A study published today by the health sciences department at Surrey University says that this posture increases the risk of nerve compression in the neck and shoulder, with consequent problems in the spine, arms and hands.

Another potentially dangerous posture involves leaning forward, away from the back of the chair, while taking a call. The study says this puts greater pressure on the spine and can cause cumulative back problems. The two-month study was conducted on 26 staff aged 18 to 57 at offices in London handling legal, financial, secretarial and computer work. It found that 65 per cent had headaches sometimes or frequently when using a telephone handset for more than two hours a day, 50 per cent had neckache and 31 per cent complained of lower-back pain.

Elizabeth Simpson, the report's author, said: "Unlike manual worker safety, the issue of occupational injury among office staff is still not taken seriously enough by employers. This is partly because the injuries caused by bad telephone habits cannot be seen and take time to manifest."

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy said that the condition, which its members called telephonitis, could be avoided by using headsets.

Tracy Bury, head of research and development at the society, said neck and back pain caused 1.2 million lost working days a year. "The resulting cost to industry and the NHS is massive but it could be cut dramatically with more investment in prevention of these common problems."

Anthony Hopkins, a neurologist and director of research at the Royal College of Physicians, found that using a phone while driving could bring on a condition he called mobile users' shoulder droop. One of his patients lost the use of his right arm for a month after spending two hours on his mobile phone. A nerve in the neck was damaged by being compressed by the handset.

Doctors at a Paris hospital treated a 36-year-old woman with severe neck pain and ringing in the ear. They found that blood had become trapped in her neck artery while she made a half-hour call on a cordless phone that she wedged under her chin while ironing.

Anyone who combines telephoning with other tasks, including driving, increases neck and shoulder tension by 41 per cent, according to research by the Institute for Treatment and Prevention of Repetitive Motion Injuries at Santa Clara Valley Medical Centre in California.

HOW TO RELIEVE THE STRAIN

Headsets remain the most effective of hands-free telephone operations, with more than six million in use worldwide. BT offers three types of headset, priced from £59.99 to £129.99. For £187.94 BT sells an adaptor that converts any modular telephone into a headset and handset working while its £50 Holdaphone allows the normal handset to be attached to a flexible arm.

Another option is the phone rest, a cradle-style attachment that sits on the shoulder and allows the caller to use both hands without contorting the spine. Ericsson and Nortel Networks are among telecoms suppliers researching this simple pain-relieving method.



CHRIS HARRIS

Hours spent using a telephone while also typing risks causing painful nerve damage

Vegetarians should watch what they drink

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

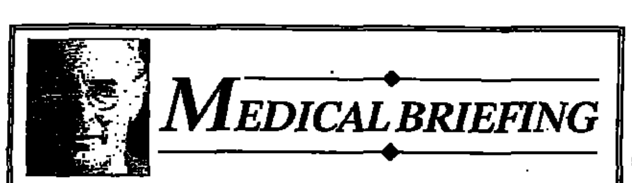
ONLY half of all wines are suitable for vegetarians but this is rarely stated on the bottle, a report by the Consumers' Association says today.

Dried ox blood was traditionally used to clarify wines. Now producers are likely to use gelatine, from beef, or isinglass, from fish, to remove the residue. For vegan wine, manufacturers have to avoid other clarifying agents such as egg white. Instead they use clay or leave the wine unfiltered.

Widespread confusion over labelling among producers and drinkers, means that organic wines and those suitable for vegetarians and vegans often fail to make this clear.

"France is the biggest producer of organic wines but that is because they are largely small family-run concerns that have always made wine in a traditional way, without pesticides. It often takes someone else to come along and notice that they are organic," Susy Atkins, Editor of *Which? Wine Guide* and author of the report in *Health Which?*, said.

Nerve centres damaged by a twisted spine



TWISTING the neck in order to hold a telephone without hands puts pressure on the spine, contorts it and will expose any nerve root vulnerability caused by disc problems.

The point at risk from a badly clasped telephone is that at which the neck and shoulder meet the "salt cellar" dips above the collar bone. Here, nerves emerge from the neck vertebrae to form the brachial plexus, which supplies nerves to the arm, neck and upper part of the thorax.

Nerve roots can be impaired by pressure, which is commonly the result of an injury to the intervertebral discs. Nerve root damage can result in pain, loss of sensation or loss of muscle power in the area supplied by the nerve roots.

Another possible explanation for nerve damage following a telephone neck injury is that it may be caused by prolonged pressure on a nerve that is pressed between the plastic of the handset and the bone and hard tissue of the neck. This type of injury is more commonly observed when someone has been sleeping deeply and a comparatively superficial nerve has been caught between a bony part of the body — such as a shoulder, elbow or knee — and a chair or bedhead. A drunken person who falls asleep with their arm over the back of a chair, can damage the radial nerve in the upper arm.

Neck problems related to telephone use have been described before, but discomfort in the lower back brought on by leaning forward while using a telephone is a new observation by the Surrey researchers. This pain is similar to that induced in men who have lumbar disc troubles when they stoop forward to peer at themselves in a shaving mirror.

Pain may be eased if the chair and telephone are placed so it is not necessary to lean forward. The ideal solution would be to correct faulty posture by learning the Alexander technique or Pilates exercises.

Once the damage is done, however, patients may have to wear a neck support. Persistent pressure on a nerve root or compression of the cord could also necessitate surgery.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Scientist plugs his TV into the bath

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A BATHFUL of hot water will generate enough electricity to run a television for about two hours, a professor at Cardiff University has proved.

Michael Rowe said: "Instead of letting waste water run down the plughole, you can take the heat out of it and create electricity."

Professor Rowe, who used a 19th-century invention, the thermocouple, to turn the heat into power, believes there is a big future in generating electricity from waste heat.

A thermocouple is a simple device: two wires of different metals joined at their ends to form a loop. When one junction is hot and the other cold, electricity flows around the loop. In a central heating system, for example, a thermocouple placed between hot and cold water pipes will generate enough electricity to drive the pump.

Nannies 'must agree not to hit'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS should employ people to look after their children only if they agree not to smack them, the Government advised yesterday.

In a 20-page booklet, *Need A Nanny?*, it says it is important for parents to discuss "positive discipline strategies" with prospective nannies. "A trained childcare worker would *never* use physical punishment as a form of discipline," it adds.

Campaigners for anti-smacking laws said yesterday that if professional childcarers, acting in place of parents, were not allowed to smack, then parents should also be banned from doing so. Alan Coombe, from the Barnado's charity, said: "Physical violence against children is never acceptable, whether administered by a nanny or a parent."

Margaret Hodge, junior Education and Employment Minister, who oversees policy on childcare, said that the Government was not trying to preach to parents about what to do in their own home, but most parents would not find it acceptable for their nanny to smack their children. "People who do a childcare course will be trained to use strategies other than smacking," she said.

The Department of Health has promised to curb the right of parents to hit their children with an implement, such as a cane, but has stopped short of outlawing smacking. After a ruling in the European Court last autumn that British law on corporal punishment failed to protect children's rights, it is drawing up a consultation document on what kind of smacking should be allowed.

Yesterday's guidelines on hiring nannies come two months after Louise Sullivan, the Australian nanny, was convicted at the Old Bailey of killing a six-month old baby in her care by shaking her.

The booklet informs parents that they will soon be able to use the new Criminal Records Bureau to vet potential employees. The bureau, which should become operational early next year, will list people deemed to be unsuitable to work with children.

Need a Nanny?, which will be distributed free in doctors' surgeries, libraries and supermarkets, advises parents to check any unexplained gaps in an applicant's work experience and to check all references with previous employers and teachers over the telephone or in person. Employers are also advised to choose nannies with qualifications from recognised childcare organisations.

Officials are also drawing up a code of conduct for nanny agencies, and those that sign up to it will get a government seal of approval.

☐ *Need a Nanny?* can be obtained free of charge by telephoning 0845 6022260 or e-mailing *dfee@prologistics.co.uk* Ref: NANGP. It will shortly be available on the Internet at *www.dfee.gov.uk/nanny/index.htm*

Teachers call for bar on unruly pupils

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER told yesterday how a four-year-old boy was excluded in his first week at school after biting 16 children and four teachers.

Dave Battye said he was called in to a South Yorkshire school as a teachers' union representative just two days after the boy's arrival.

He told delegates at the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers' conference in Eastbourne that the boy was unteachable, and joined calls for disruptive children to be kept out of mainstream schools.

The union criticised the spread of special units within schools designed to deal with disruptive pupils. The Government is planning more of the units as part of its strategy to reduce the soaring level of school exclusions.

Mr Battye, a member of the union executive, told the conference that teachers should not be expected to teach children who did not want to learn.

"This is not an educational problem. We deal with educational problems. This little boy at four going round biting members of the public at random was not an educational problem. His mouth watered when he saw dinner ladies."

The boy bit seven pupils and two members of staff on his first day. He bit nine pupils, the head teacher and the deputy head on his second day, before being excluded.

Mr Battye rejected the view of educationists who blamed bad behaviour on difficulties children had in coping with their school work.

Delegates backed a motion condemning the "chaotic agenda of pupils who respond neither to authority nor to ambition". They said units for disruptive children, "sin bins", should not be used as an alternative to permanent exclusion.

Delegates also criticised plans to set targets for cutting the number of exclusions.

Jim Prior, a delegate from North Lanarkshire, called for legislation to make parents more responsible for children's behaviour. "The time for namby-pamby education theories is over," he said.

☐ England's three main classroom unions should hold a joint ballot to convince ministers of the strength of opposition to plans for performance-related pay, Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday.

In his closing address to the NUT's conference in Brighton, he said that the Government's decision to make the new teacher appraisals voluntary in their first year was not sufficient to head off the union's campaign of industrial action.

Leading article, page 19

ASADOUR GUZELIAN



The Grade II listed station at Mytholmroyd, the village where Huges was born, which could be converted as a tribute

Railtrack delays Hughes project

BY PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT



Hughes: never lost his Yorkshire accent

A NEAR-DERELICT railway building has been suggested as a heritage centre dedicated to the life and works of Ted Hughes, the late Poet Laureate.

However, Railtrack, which owns the Victorian Grade II listed building in the Pennine village of Mytholmroyd in West Yorkshire, where Hughes was born, has been accused of dragging its feet over the plan. It says it is looking at other offers.

The idea was put forward by Royd Regeneration, a local development group, which wants to convert the building to establish a library of Hughes's work and an archive of material related to him, together with study rooms, an exhibition hall and a lecture theatre.

Although he lived in America and the West Country, Hughes never lost his Yorkshire burr, and now locals want to pay tribute to their most famous son. The centre has the support of Hughes's widow, Carol, and his publishers, Faber and Faber.

Sean Green, the project leader with Royd Regeneration, said that once the family's approval had been secured, others fell in behind. "The Poetry Society, Yorkshire and Humberside Arts and Calderdale Council are all involved now."

Railtrack's three-storey stone building has been unoccupied for 15 years. Officially described as a stair tower, it is set into an embankment on the line between Leeds and Manchester. It links the platform built high on a viaduct over a tributary of the River Calder, which is also Grade II listed, with the valley floor. A modern flight of steps allows travellers access to the unmanned station.

Mr Green said: "Bearing in mind the enthusiasm and excitement this project has generated, we would appreciate it if Railtrack would be more communicative and co-operative with us."

A spokeswoman for Railtrack said yesterday: "We inherited a great deal of property from British Rail when it was privatised, and we have been working through it all to consider how best to maximise our assets.

"This building was not at the top of our priority list as the station has been unmanned for some time. We are getting round to looking at it and there are a number of interested parties. We will have to consider them on a commercial basis."

Weight of the law bans diet advert

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

THE full weight of the law turned against the Yummy Yum Yum Diet yesterday. The Office of Fair Trading won a High Court injunction to stop slimming advertisements that had claimed that certain foods could burn fat or cleanse the body of impurities.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "Advertisements that offer false hope and prey on the vulnerabilities of people are particularly offensive."

The injunction against Top 20 Ltd of Regent Street, London, stops the company making certain claims in its advertisements for the Yummy Yum Yum Diet. It had claimed that the diet would allow users to lose specified amounts of weight in specified times and that it was effective in cleaning the body of impurities. It also promised increased energy and reduced risk of serious illness and said that certain foods burn fat from the body.

The diet was advertised through unsolicited faxes that invited recipients to dial a premium-rate fax number to receive a diet sheet two to four pages long. The cost was £1 per minute and it took four to nine minutes to receive.

"This is not the first time that I have been forced to go to court to stop misleading slimming ads," Mr Bridgeman said. "I warn anyone who continues to produce such advertisements and ignores rulings from the Advertising Standards Authority they should expect to hear from my office."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Churches closed in protest at violence

Nazareth: Churches were closed for 48 hours yesterday in an unprecedented protest against attacks on Christians by Muslims (Christopher Walker writes). The violence in the town, which is home to 42,000 Muslims and 18,000 Christians, is the most serious in the Holy Land for many years and could wreck plans to make it a centre of millennium celebrations. Riot police patrolled the streets and vigilantes guarded churches as Christian leaders, who ordered the closures, called on the Israeli Government to take steps to halt the violence, which began over rival plans for land close to the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Iraqis executed

Baghdad: Four Iraqis, including three clergymen, have been hanged for the murder of the country's Shia Muslim leader and two of his sons, an official statement said yesterday. The men were shown on state television last month confessing to shooting Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadiq al-Sader and his sons in February, but exiled opposition groups said one of them had been in jail since 1991. *(AP)*

Call for guerrilla war

Jakarta: Xanana Gusmao, the East Timorese independence leader, has called for a resumption of the guerrilla war against Indonesian forces in the occupied territory (Patricia Nunan writes). Gusmao's lawyer said that he would withdraw the call to arms if a UN contingent was deployed to stop attacks by pro-Indonesian militias that have killed scores of civilians in recent months.

Forgers' $1m a week

Cali: A gang of Colombian forgers who are said to have made more than $1 million (£620,000) a week by bleaching 10 Bolivares notes, worth 10p, and reprinting them as near-perfect US$10 bills have been arrested by police after a tip-off (Gabriella Gamini writes). Much of the money was used to launder drug profits. The US Treasury Department said that the fakes had been entering America for three years.

Magician buried alive

New York: David Blaine, a 25-year-old magician, was buried alive in a see-through coffin where he has vowed to remain for a week as a test of his will. He has prepared for the stunt by learning to put himself into a trance-like state and spending four days a week in a coffin in his living room. Blaine will have no food and three to four tablespoons of water a day. Fresh air will be pumped in. *(AP)*

Velázquez grave found

Madrid: Historians say they have located the remains of the painter Velázquez under a Madrid street. If confirmed, the bones will be moved to a more suitable site to mark the 400th anniversary of his birth this year. His crypt was originally under a church that was demolished when Napoleonic forces invaded Spain. Previous attempts to find the site, in 1845 and 1960, failed because of faulty maps. *(AP)*

Tycoon faces arrest

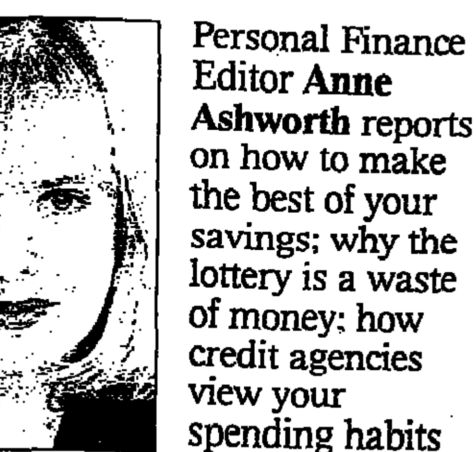
Moscow: A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Boris Berezovsky, the tycoon who helped to finance President Yeltsin's re-election in 1996, on charges of money laundering and illegal entrepreneurship. Mr Berezovsky is accused with Nikolai Glushkov, Aeroflot's former deputy director, of siphoning off billions of dollars from the airline's profits. Mr Berezovsky, who is in France, denied he would seek asylum.

Crime boss pleads guilty

New York: John Gotti Jr, head of America's largest crime family, entered a surprise guilty plea on the eve of his trial on racketeering charges (James Bone writes). Gotti Jr faces a maximum sentence of seven years. Prosecutors said his guilty plea meant the death knell for the Gottis' 15-year rule over the once-feared New York crime family. Gotti's father, the former head of the clan, is serving a life sentence.

هكذا من الأصل

Beware the big banks



Personal Finance Editor **Anne Ashworth** reports on how to make the best of your savings; why the lottery is a waste of money; how credit agencies view your spending habits

Mortgage rates have not been this low since 1966, the year when Twiggy first sidled down the catwalk in Mary Quant designs. This is the sort of detail that leads the more extrovert building society chief executive to do an impersonation of a young Mick Jagger. But ask the same man about the rates available on his organisation's savings accounts and he will suddenly lose the swagger and all sense of history.

Easy Money, however, notes that the decline in mortgage rates which began late last year has resulted in an even swifter fall in returns on savings. Rates on bank and building society savings accounts, in which millions of us have between £1 and £100,000 invested, were last at their current wretched level in 1874. For the Quant mini, substitute the Charles Worth crinoline; for Harold Wilson, Benjamin Disraeli: for Jagger, Johann Strauss.

The happy Sixties saver earned an average of 5.78 per cent on his savings. But the average rate payable today on a basic instant access account is 1.57 per cent, below the rate of inflation of 2.4 per cent. This means that your stash of cash could be losing value as it is not keeping pace with increases in the cost of living. The knowledge that you have even a little money in an account is usually the source of considerable reassurance. But returns such as these would make even the preternaturally thrifty feel disaffected.

Once tax is taken into account, the picture becomes even gloomier. Tax at the rate of 20 per cent is automatically deducted from savings interest before it is added to your account — the rate of 1.57 per cent becomes 1.26 per cent for most taxpayers. For the two million people on the higher rate of tax, this is further reduced to 0.94 per cent.

Some accounts from high street banks pay much less than the average, offering savers as little as 0.50 per cent before tax. Your £5,000, amassed from much self-denial, would earn only £25 in a year. Rates on smaller balances can be more exiguous still. Place £100 in Abbey National's Instant Saver and you will earn just 0.2 per cent interest.

It would be easy to conclude that savers will soon be paying banks for the privilege of depositing money, but the decline in returns may be slowing. There is speculation that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee may cut the bank base rate tomorrow by a further 0.25 per cent to 5.25 per cent.

Britain's 11 million homebuyers will not necessarily receive the full benefit of any decrease as there is a new desire to safeguard the interests of the nation's 19 million savers. They include the elderly, who need extra income to supplement pensions; and the young, who want to buy homes and need to see their money grow.

If you are a saver who falls into the homebuyer category then you may feel that meagre rates for savings are a reasonable price to pay for cheaper mortgages. Shame on you for such defeatist talk. You can swap your lean, mean rate for a big-and-beefy 5 to 6 per cent even if you have only £1. The secret is to stop queueing in branches and start organising your savings by post or over the phone.

The 5-per-cent-plus average instant access rate of 1966 reflects the very different savings scene of that era. People accessed their accounts over the counter in high street branches and schemes varied little from one bank to another.

The 1.5 per cent instant-access account of 1999 reflects the waif-like rates payable on the thousands of branch-based accounts. Insiders explain that these rates are set at the lowest possible level to deter the public from visiting branches that are expensive to run. Most institutions reserve their plumpest rates for customers who use the phone or the post.

Those content with "no-notice" accounts, where it takes just a few days to withdraw money, do far better than those who insist on access to their cash over the counter and within minutes. Postal accounts come with a supply of prepaid envelopes and forms for withdrawals and new investments.

If your savings have suffered dramatic weight loss, follow these hints:

■ No member of the big bank fraternity is your friend. The munificence promised in advertising never quite translates into reality. Check the rates on your savings with the help of *Moneyfacts*, a monthly guide to savings and loans. For rates on accounts opened some years ago, ask at the institution concerned, and prepare to be shocked.

■ Some building societies and the banking arms of insurance companies and supermarkets now provide the best deals. Egg, the banking arm of the Prudential, offers 6 per cent on £1 or more. This includes a 0.5 per cent bonus paid until the end of 1999. Egg guarantees that its rate will not be lower than the Bank of England base rate until January 1, 2001. The account can be operated by phone or post.

Virgin Direct, the financial services arm of the Branson conglomerate, offers 5.75 per cent, again on £1. The Yorkshire Building Society Postal Saver account pays 5.50 per cent on balances of more than £1,000.

■ Today's savings "best buys" may be downsized tomorrow. Beware the deception practised by some banks, where a new account with a similar name to another in the existing range is periodically launched. The rate on the old account is then quietly decreased.

Under the Banking Code of Practice, information about changes to branch-based accounts must be available within three days by telephone or on the Internet. Holders of non-branch-based accounts get a letter within 30 days.

■ Everyone says they are saving for a rainy day, but some have set aside enough money to cover a monsoon season. At the same time they owe money on credit and store cards, overdrafts and personal loans.

The rates of interest payable on such debts, averaging 20 per cent or so, are far higher than those paid on even the most generous accounts. Without the burden of such borrowings, any period of unemployment would be more bearable. While keeping aside an emergency fund, use some of your savings to repay your "flexible friends". Those oppressed by their mortgage could also repay a slice of this debt. A £70,000 repayment loan at 6.95 per cent with the Halifax costs £480.94 a month. The total estimated interest repayments over 25 years would be £74,282. Repay £5,000 of the mortgage and you will reduce the term of the mortgage to 22 years and 2 months and save a total of £16,351.96.

● *Times Money: www.timesmoney.co.uk; Egg: 0845-600 0292; Moneyfacts: for a free copy, telephone 01603 476747; Virgin Direct: 0845-610 1020; Yorkshire Building Society: 0845-600 6061. The Banking Code of Practice: www.bankfacts.org.uk*



Not since a Charles Worth evening dress was *de rigueur* have our savings accounts delivered such paltry dividends

NASTY HABITS

Playing the National Lottery defies reason. Cynics call the lottery a tax on fools, and it's easy to see why. The odds of winning the jackpot are 13,983,816 to one against. Yet 70 per cent of the British population regularly buys a lottery ticket.

The lure of the scratchcard is even more insidious. The odds of winning big money are more than six million to one against, but that does not seem to matter when you are standing in your newsagent's and contemplating the fact that for just £1 extra, you could be walking home with half a pint of milk, a newspaper and £50,000.

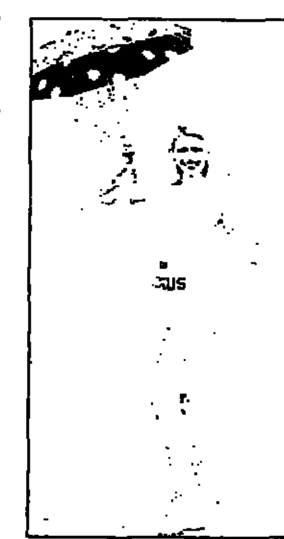
The lottery's appeal lies in the sheer quantity of money up for grabs. The biggest prize so far was shared by Paul Madison and Mark Gardiner, who spent one Saturday evening in June 1995 celebrating being £22.5 million richer. Since its launch in November 1994, the National Lottery has created 763 British millionaires.

The desire to become the next one leads millions of people to throw as much as £300 a year in Camelot's direction. The average player spends at least £3.33 a week on lottery tickets. If each player also buys at least three Instants, the weekly total could be £6.33.

If you stop playing the lottery, you could save £329.16 every year. By itself this does not look significant, but it can make a big difference to your savings and investment portfolio.

The average monthly contribution to a unit trust is £50. Based on performance over the past ten years, and assuming a £50 payment every month over that period, the average UK fund would have grown to about £12,957. This is based on the average performance of UK equity growth, UK growth and UK income funds. If you had invested your £50 in the top-performing fund, Jupiter Income, your investment would now be worth £20,908. If you add to your monthly contribution of just over £25 you would have spent on the lottery, you are even better-off. The average UK fund would have grown to about £20,000 and the Jupiter fund to about £32,000.

Investing your lottery money in your pension fund is also worth consideration. According to Virgin Direct, a basic-rate taxpayer who contributes £75 a month to a pension fund from the age of 30 can expect a final fund of about £130,000 by the time he or she reaches 60. If he adds his lottery cash to his pension fund, the final fund will be worth almost £50,000 more: £178,000.



Save your lottery money

Besides the financial benefits, there are many other reasons to give up buying lottery tickets. No more will you live in fear of forgetting to buy your ticket, only to discover that your numbers have come up.

No longer will you have to endure the cloying smiles of the B-list celebrities hired to present the *National Lottery Live* on TV on Saturday nights. No longer will you contribute voluntarily to the Government's coffers. If you can't resist a bet, choose rationality and stick to horses.

PAULA HAWKINS

NEXT WEEK
How to remortgage

Secrets on file

IF YOU thought your financial arrangements were a secret, think again. A vast computer knows more about your spending habits than you do.

Credit history files on millions of borrowers are stored by the credit reference agencies Experian and Equifax. Some may be held by both. And these play a key part in decisions by banks, building societies and other lenders on whether to give you a mortgage, loan or credit card.

But not all inquiries come from lenders. Your file, which is divided into categories, includes electoral-roll data precious to any organisation that wants to confirm your address and how long you have lived there.

Listed in the "court information" category are details of county court judgments and any administration orders (for unpaid parking fines, credit card debts, etc) held against you. This information will not appear if you have paid debts tainted for six years. And although you may be virtuous about finances, you may be affected if other family members at the same address are spendthrifts. If so, you can apply for a "notice of dissociation".

Another problem is known as "footprints". Every time your files are searched the organisation's name and the type of inquiry are recorded. Although the lender's decision is not logged, a string of searches by different lenders may count against you.

Lenders will not reveal how their credit-scoring systems work, on the ground that we could concoct fraudulent credit applications more easily if we knew. But if you have ever been refused a loan, they must tell you the main reason for their refusal.

You can also apply for your credit file, which costs £2. Write to: Equifax Plc, Dept 1E, PO Box 3001, Glasgow G81 2DT; and Experian, Consumer Help Service, PO Box 8000, Nottingham NG1 5GY.

Man's debt to spuds

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

IT IS hard to imagine cookery without the potato. The humble tuber makes so many appearances in so many different forms that Western cuisine would be a poor thing without it. But now an American anthropologist has gone even further.

Cooking tubers, he suggests, was a key event in human evolution, enabling the huge expansion of the brain that led to *Homo erectus*, the human species which first left Africa to colonise the world.

Many explanations have been advanced to explain this dramatic change 1.8 million years ago, with meat-eating a current favourite. But Dr Richard Wrangham, of Harvard University, says that cooked tubers are an even better bet. He points out in *Current Anthropology* that the Australopithecines, man's ancestors, were eating meat a million years earlier without evolving big brains or larger bodies. Many omnivores alive today have a meat diet, but it has yet to produce any four-legged Einsteins.

So why tubers? They are certainly plentiful in Africa, even if the potato we eat is of South American origin, and suited to a temperate climate. Cassava, yams and sweet potatoes are staples in the Tropics. In Tanzania's savannah grasslands today, there are 40 tonnes of tuber per square kilometre, and no reason to believe things were very different two million years ago, when tuber-eating pigs and mole rats flourished.

Tubers only really show their value when cooked, however. Then the carbohydrates are made palatable and provide a lot of calories. Dr Wrangham calculates, reports *Science*, that a diet of 60 per cent cooked tubers and no meat boosts calorie intake by more than 40 per cent over a diet of nuts, berries and raw tubers. A 60 per cent meat diet, by contrast, offers only a 20 per cent calorie boost. An energy-rich diet would allow the teeth, jaws and gut to shrink, and the brain to grow — just what happened in the decisive step to man.

The idea of our ancestors eating roots is also more plausible than a meat diet, he believes. Modern hunter-gatherers such as the Hadza of Tanzania may go weeks without a kill, even though they hunt with bows and arrows, technology more advanced than early man.

There is only one flaw with the theory, and it is a fairly big one. There is no evidence of cooking hearths going back further than about 250,000 years, so how did the first human beings cook their tubers? He speculates that they discovered the taste when tubers were accidentally baked in a grass fire triggered by lightning. But there is little evidence of the systematic use of fire, such as would be expected if baked roots became the *nouvelle cuisine* of the day.

The theory nevertheless has supporters, including anthropologists from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City who argue that fires for cooking tubers might have been ephemeral, leaving few traces. Dr Wrangham admits that more evidence is needed. "There hasn't been enough satisfactory archaeology for people to get their teeth into," he says, suiting the metaphor to the subject.

Enzyme ends the run on reds



PUTTING a bright red sock into a white wash and coming up with everything a sickly pink could soon be just a nasty memory. Scientists from Novo Nordisk Biotech in Davis, California, have developed a tough enzyme that can prevent dye released from one garment attaching itself to another.

They knew that peroxidases could do the job by chewing up dyes in solution, but ordinary ones cannot survive the heat, alkalinity or the hydrogen peroxide concentrations inside a washing machine. They set out to make a better peroxidase by starting with the version made by the ink-cap mushroom, and introducing random changes, both in the amino acid sequence of the enzyme, and into its gene , to create enzymes more resistant to destruction in the wash. They selected the ten most promising, and put their genes into yeast cells. Yeast has the ability to mix and match genes, so this produced thousands of mutant combinations.

Further selection and mutation produced a peroxidase 174 times more stable in hot water and 100 times more resistant to hydrogen peroxide than the original, the team reports in *Nature Biotechnology*. It prevented dyes from a red cloth running into a white one.

Winds of change benefit nightjars

THE winds that demolished the woods of southern England in October 1987 blew in some good for the nightjar, a species that in the early 1980s looked set for extinction in Britain. The 1981 count by the British Trust for Ornithology put the total at no more than 2,100 pairs. But by 1992, to general surprise, the numbers had increased to 3,400.

In *Biologist*, the journal of the Institute of Biology, Mike Everett, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, attributes the turnaround to changes in forestry practice and the great storm of October 1987. Nightjars are heathland birds, but they have turned to clearings in forests as an alternative niche since heath has declined.

In 1981, commercially planted conifers began to be harvested for the first time on a big scale, and nightjars found the areas of clearfell greatly to their liking. The great storm was even better news, and it was followed by a second gale in January 1990. These brought down so many trees that the nightjars were able to use the glades and clearings provided to multiply. That this was the cause of the recovery was shown by deliberate felling at the RSPB's Minsmere reserve, which had similar effects.



Some autistics, such as the character played by Dustin Hoffman in the film *Rain Man*, are often highly intelligent but are regarded as socially odd

The autistic mind

Scientists are using imaging equipment to gain an insight into how the brains of autistic children function. Anjana Ahuja reports

Until the Sixties, it was almost an offence to be autistic. Children were institutionalised and, for many years, parents shouldered the erroneous belief that the condition was the consequence of "refrigerator" parenting. Emotional coldness from mothers in particular, psychologists asserted, could explain why their children grew up aloof, unaffectionate and adrift in the world of social relationships.

Once psychologists started peering into the minds of those with autism, however, medical thinking was transformed. Autism, which affects about one child in 5,000, is now thought to be a mild form of brain damage. Now that scientists can look inside the brain to see how it functions, with the help of imaging equipment, the remarkable world inhabited by those with autism is being explored.

Foremost among the navigators is Dr Francesca Happé, senior cognitive psychologist at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. Dr Happé, 31, who will deliver the third lecture in the *Scientists for the New Century* series, sponsored by *The Times* and The Royal Institution, prefers to think of autism as a form of "mind-blindness".

It is a deficit in the ability to mind-read, which most of us employ subconsciously in everyday life. It allows us to work out why people behave in the way that they do.

"For example, take a Smarties tube which contains pencils instead of Smarties," Dr Happé says. "Most children would guess the tube contained Smarties rather than pencils. An autistic child, however, would think that other children would guess pencils. Because they know the tube contains pencils, they assume other children will automatically know, too."

Francesca Happé

This inability to guess what other people are thinking quickly becomes apparent in children. An autistic toddler will not respond to facial expressions. In extreme cases, there will be no speech or gesture. If there is language it is functional: when autistic children say "apple", it is their way of requesting one. They do not speak of their experiences, but they might act like a human tape recorder, repeating what other people say.

To them, language is literal, so they are unable to tell lies, understand jokes, cartoons or figures of speech. The child remains anchored in the physical world, preferring to play with real objects. Most fascinating, perhaps, are children at the so-called high-functioning end of the spectrum — they exhibit mild forms of autism such as Asperger's syndrome. It is these individuals, who are often highly intelligent but are regarded as socially odd, that Dr Happé chose to concentrate on for her post-doctoral research at the Medical Research Council Cognitive Development Unit, University College London.

She says: "High-functioning autistics are the kind of people, often men, who memorise the Latin names of every type of carrot and are captivated by train timetables, but are left cold by gossip or *EastEnders*. They want friends, but everything they do is socially wrong." The fact that they are normal except for social ability, suggests that the capacity to empathise with others is housed in a particular area of the brain. This is reinforced by the finding that some patients with brain injuries in the right hemisphere display the symptoms of autism.

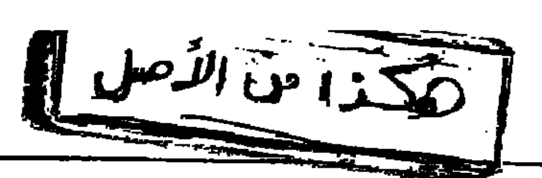
"However, we know that high-functioning autistic children often acquire a glimmer of awareness of what other people are thinking," says Dr Happé. "We found out by accident because parents would tell us that their child had managed to keep a secret or tell a small lie. To do these things, you need to be able to put yourself in someone else's shoes. It led to the idea that people could make their way up the spectrum into the world of mind-reading."

Did this mean that autistic people could suddenly acquire a natural ability to read minds? Indeed, when presented with scenarios such as the Smarties problem, a few individuals, particularly those competent at language, could perform well. However, not all their social problems disappeared. Dr Happé discovered that even though high-functioning autistics could pass the Smarties test, they would fall down at more sophisticated scenarios. "One story involved a conversation between someone who wanted to buy a kitten and a cat-lover selling them," she says. "When the buyer hesitated, the seller said 'If no one buys them, I'll drown them'. The participants generally knew the seller wouldn't drown the kittens, but didn't know why. They couldn't see that it was a ruse to get a sale." Her research has had practical, as well as academic, impact. Similar tests are used to assess autism in children and she has written a handbook on the subject.

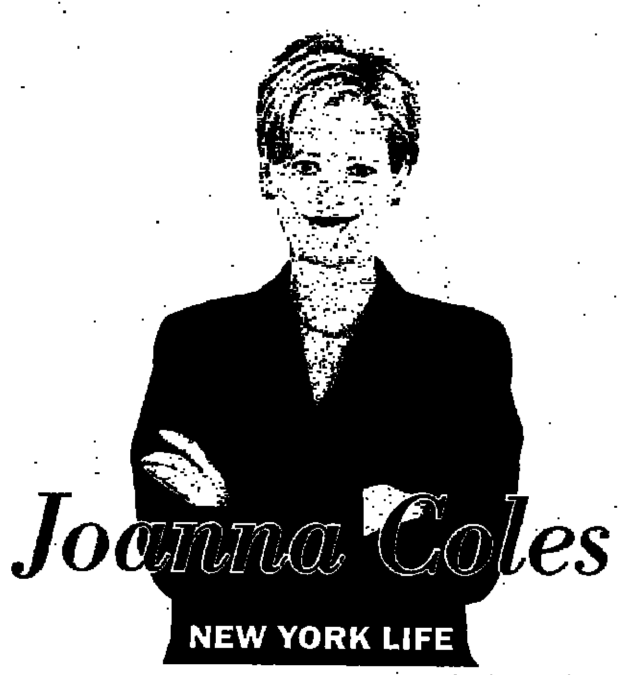
By scanning the brains of autistics and non-autistics while they studied stories, she discovered that the groups process the information using slightly different parts of the brain. So even though they appear to read social signals, they read them in a different way.

"Rather than certain circuits suddenly being switched on, it is as if the people with autism are using all their intelligence to work out what is going on. That's why autistics don't watch *EastEnders* — while we find it easy to understand the social intrigue, it's hard work for them." Her next task is to scan the brains of normal and autistic children to see how their brains deal with mind-reading as they grow up.

Dr Happé thinks that as we come to know more about the disorder, people with autism will be appreciated for what they can, rather than what they cannot, do. "They are good at looking at details. They often have exceptional memories, and are predictable and logical, which makes them adept at interacting with computers. In fact, the coming century is going to be a good time for people with autism."



Major booty at the Manhattan baby shower



Sunday: "Hi, presents go in the corner," orders Betsy, our hostess, leading us through to her crowded Madison Avenue sitting room and pointing to a Himalayan-like pile of boxes where the contemporary icons of serious consumerism are well represented. I spot the distinctive turquoise of Tiffany's, several grey boxes from Saks, a couple of black and silver Barneys bags and the blue and purple logo of Fifth Avenue's smartest department store, Bergdorf Goodman.

"Wow, that's some major booty going on," observes a rangy, blonde editor in a black Ralph Lauren pantsuit, who pours me a glass of cranberry juice. I place my own offering at the bottom of the teetering mountain, for what is becoming a regular feature of my Sunday afternoons: The Manhattan Baby Shower.

In London, my pregnant friends were far too superstitious to want presents before the baby was born. With typical British gloom, they felt that asking for Bunnykins mugs or a set of Beatrix Potter would be tempting fate. But Americans embrace the future differently. And among Manhattan's professional women the baby shower, once mocked as a relic of the homemaker Fifties, is now back as a serious social event.

Today's crowd consists mainly of thirtysomething writers, executives and shrinks, and even though it's Sunday we are all dressed alike — in the black-suited uniform of the working woman. "This is like a really great book launch, except there are *no men*," says Dani, this afternoon's guest of honour, who is a writer and university teacher. As is the convention, her baby is due in a month's time. Her husband has gone drinking with his father and will make his appearance, to thank us for showering his wife with gifts, at precisely 5pm.

Nodding to the working week, the contemporary shower is hosted by a friend — on Sundays between 3pm and 5pm prompt — and follows a strict pattern.

For the first half-hour guests are expected to mingle, sipping tea and nibbling cookies. This afternoon's fare, prepared by the host's husband (the only man allowed on the premises and still labouring in the kitchen) is a delicious assortment of female finger food. Amid jugs of exploding red tulips there are platters of cucumber slices layered with Gruyère and tomato, endive boats loaded with Roquefort, thin ovals of salami and delicate slivers of lemon and poppyseed cake.

"Attention girls, it's time for the gift-opening," calls Betsy, clapping her hands over the gossipy hubbub as we lay down our plates and take up our places in an obedient circle around the guest of honour. As is customary, one guest is appointed to select the order of gifts while another, armed with pen and paper, keeps track of who gave what. A formal thank-you note is expected.

First up is a black and yellow box tied with a big yellow ribbon. Dani undoes the parcel, sifting through the layers of tissue paper until she pulls out a tiny black jacket and matching black trousers. She holds it up and the entire room of women, tough TV producers, ad executives and investigative reporters, burst out in unison: "Aaahhh!"

"It's beautiful," exclaims Dani, placing the suit back in the box and handing it round for each of us to inspect. The next gift is a Harrods teddy bear from London which she holds aloft. "Aaahhh!" we all chorus again — each gift must be accorded the same level of attention so as not to offend the giver. For the next hour, we sit alternately cooing and aahing as gift after gift is unwrapped and held up for our approval. Musical mobiles, a baby gym, cuddly toys, a silver rattle, two miniature denim jackets, baby cosmetics and dozens of brightly coloured onesies are piled on top of each other.

> The infant is deified and parents are the high priests

But behind the Manhattan baby shower there can be serious social tension because it straddles that major New York source of female angst — singlehood. Much more than weddings, the baby shower here marks the graduation of a woman from the collegiate sorority of girlfriends into the world of motherhood. And it is sometimes tinged with the wistfulness of a farewell party. For the unspoken realisation is that the intensity of childless friendships will probably be lost for ever.

It is particularly tricky for those who do not breed — a very substantial tribe of Manhattan females. I know, from having waited relatively late before having my own baby shower, just how irritating new mothers can be. And how biology conspires to shrink their conversational horizons as their cerebral lens zooms right in to the close-up of their very own representative of the next generation.

In an environment like Manhattan, where childlessness is common and where even those who do breed tend to do so very frugally, the baby shower marks the induction of the guest of honour into a new cult — the deification of the infant. I'm sure this exaggerated respect and solicitousness of small children exists in most societies where small families have become the norm.

It is probably a function of rarity, in the same way that the elderly are venerated in the Third World where so few survive into old age. But Manhattan is the high temple of kiddie tyranny and the high priests and priestesses are the baby-boomers, the first generation to be brought up within the twin comforting arms of disposable income and consumer choice. It's no coincidence that juvenile designer labels have mushroomed recently, that suddenly it seems that even expensive restaurants have high tables here, that there are dozens of competing models of People Movers or Family Wagons, some of them now equipped with built-in TVs and videos for the passengers as standard.

Feature-length cartoons are attracting unprecedented budgets and revenues as *A Bug's Life* competes with *Antz* competes with *Toy Story*. All in all it's a great time to be having a kid in New York. It's an even better time to be one.

He points a rocket at my chest, finger on the trigger



In the second extract from his book, **Chris Moon** tells how he was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge in the jungles of Cambodia



Chris Moon (left) is debriefed by a United Nations officer immediately after being released by the Khmer Rouge. Only quick thinking saved his life

June 1993: I jerk the steering wheel to the right to take the Land Rover round the edge of a large tree root. With metal detectors, first-aid kit, demolition equipment and six deminers on board, it's a full load. Mr Houn, the interpreter, is sitting next to me in the passenger seat. The truck following us is being driven by Sok. There are about 20 women and children in the rear.

I glance at my watch. It is nearly 1.10pm and we are approaching a large clearing.

"Stop! Khmer Rouge!" shouts Mr Houn. For a moment I wonder if he is joking, but I have never heard him shout before. "Where?"

"In front." Mr Houn points.

He's not wrong. I feel sweat prickle on my face and the backs of my hands tingle. There are at least 20 of them along the tree line. I can hear my heart beating faster.

There is no way we can drive through. There are too many of them and they are too heavily armed. If we try to reverse and they start firing, there will be a massacre.

They are running towards us, waving their weapons. I hope to God nobody starts shooting. Now I can see soldiers behind, too. We are surrounded. What should I do?

There isn't much choice. I must try to convince them that we are friendly and neutral. The worst thing would be to behave like a victim. I have to find the commander.

Two soldiers jog past me towards the truck, waving AK47s. They are shouting and gesticulating. In front of me, a Khmer Rouge soldier is moving forward. He is wearing the same uniform as the others but is carrying a pistol. This must be the commander. I walk towards him slowly.

As I get closer, he looks perplexed. I smile, put my hands together and bow. I hold out my hand and say hello in my politest Khmer. "*Soo-a s'day.*"

"*Soo-a s'day.*" He shakes my hand and smiles the smile of a man who has been waiting for days to ambush somebody and has finally succeeded. He heads straight to the Land Rover with two soldiers and begins to search it. Thank God we have no weapons.

A soldier is running towards me, carrying a gun with a rifle-propelled grenade. He stops three feet away and points the rocket at my chest. His finger is on the trigger. He has wide, glazed eyes and as he shouts, his nostrils flare like the snout of a pig. Still, I must try to be sociable. I hold out my hand. "*Soo-a s'day.*"

Pig Face responds by bringing the rocket very close to my face. Time to take a step back. I bow humbly but keep my eyes on him. He motions with his rifle. I can see Mr Houn by the Land Rover, his face is a mask and he speaks quietly. "We must go over there or Khmer Rouge will kill us."

We walk to the edge of the clearing, where we are made to stand in a semicircle. The soldiers start to shout. "What are they saying, Mr Houn?"

"We must walk backwards to bushes and stand still." We tiptoe backwards.

"*Chop! Chop!*" The soldiers shout at us to stop. Mr Houn looks worried. "They say we must take off clothes." Slowly I undo the leather belt around my waist and place it and my Leatherman pouch on the ground. I know they will try to steal my watch, so I hide it in my fist.

> Automatic weapon fire echoes around the clearing

I turn to Mr Houn; he looks worried. Fifteen years ago, members of his family were executed in front of him.

I turn away from Pig Face and start to undress. I slip my watch inside my boiler suit and down my boxer shorts.

There is silence, then one of the Khmer Rouge shouts and the soldiers herd us back into a horseshoe of dense thorn bush. There is no escape. There never has been.

Houn is tense. Finally he says: "They say you can put clothes on."

I retrieve my watch, get dressed again, return to the Land Rover and slide into the driving seat. I hear the heavy splutter of the truck to my rear. Sok is driving with a soldier next to him. I understand the command. "We go."

As we move off, the soldiers start to walk away while the village people stand looking shocked. At least they are safe.

I drive slowly. There is a flash and thunder. Raindrops fall like giant tears and my nostrils fill with the smell of soil and fresh rain. The windscreen is steaming up. I must keep trying. "Please tell him my name is Chris and I am British. What is his name?"

Silence. Houn pauses, then says, "Mr Red."

"I have never seen rain this heavy." Houn's expression tells me that conversation is a risk he would prefer not to take. But we have to try. I watch Mr Red. He looks at me before speaking. "It rains more in the forest and it's cooler." Houn looks surprised.

"There are many people who will worry about us. Can I tell them that we are OK?" After translation, the response is uncompromising. "Sorry, not possible. My boss not allow."

Up ahead there is a clearing. Huts with sides and roofs of brown thatch are dotted among small fields. I park by a pagoda. On my right, three soldiers are squatting in the shade. They wave me forward and start walking. I march a pace behind the one in front. Behind me, Houn stares through the windscreen.

There are about 20 huts and a building that looks like a washroom. One side of it is open, and there is a table and two chairs. A soldier motions me to the chair nearest the wall, the others walk away.

I have heard stories. They hang people by their hands and beat them with rods, rope or bamboo. They tie them in the hot sun. In the wet season there is water torture. Scorpions are held with pliers and played slowly over the body to make the victim beg to be smashed in the head with a hoe, or shot. It is 4.40pm.

The commander smiles, shakes hands and before sitting down, says awkwardly: "I would like to help you." He speaks slowly as he consults a Thai/English phrase book. "What country are you from?"

"United Kingdom."

"Why you come Cambodia?" I tell him. "To help the people by clearing mines." Communication is slow but I have no margin for error. "Why you come my area?" I try not to sound angry. "Soldiers make us." He laughs. He knows we were kidnapped.

After nearly half an hour, two soldiers bring in Houn. The commander gestures to the chair next to me, and Houn sits. "Before they not trust me. Now he say they will use me as interpreter.

"The people call him Mr Clever because he went to primary school. He will try to help us."

Suddenly I strain my ears and scan the horizon. I can hear a helicopter. Soldiers start running everywhere. I must reassure Mr Clever. I say "*Dtay panyaha.* No problem. UNTAC helicopter."

Without warning, the deafening sound of automatic weapons erupts around the clearing and shatters my hopes. It was going so well.

Mr Clever and I exchange glances, then he looks at the ground. The commander did not give the order to fire. All my fears are justified. The lowest common denominator rules in this place of darkness. The helicopter heads away.

Mr Clever looks at me through narrowed eyes. Houn speaks with the resignation of the condemned man. "Now helicopter come, he cannot guarantee our security."

Then, behind Mr Clever, I see a little man running across the clearing. He is clutching a piece of paper, which Mr Clever takes, reads — and then smiles. Mr Houn explains: "It tell him we are neutral, what you tell him already." The helicopter was only dropping leaflets. But now, will Mr Clever let us go......?

As we approach the town, people run over to us, waving and saying hello. Men come up and shake our hands. Children start to follow us and women hold up their little ones to wave.

Houn says: "They think Khmer Rouge kill us. They happy we alive and thank us for clearing the mines."

Just for a moment, we are all happy. I nod my head and turn away. I don't want him to see that I am crying.

● *Extracted from* One Step Beyond *by Chris Moon, published by Macmillan, £16.99.* Times *readers can buy it for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134 459.*

TOMORROW

'This is the moment I've been waiting for. I'm going to run again'

Macedonia deserves Short shrift

The West has another Balkan mess to fix, says James Pettifer

Clare Short may not be everyone's idea of a natural Cabinet minister. But she has a wonderful ability to disregard conventional wisdom, hit nails on the head and reflect basic British decency and common sense. On Monday, in the chaos of the Brazde refugee camp, she touched a raw nerve. Her response to the humanitarian crisis was more than an alarm call to the West. It raised deep issues about the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, currently home to Nato's nascent ground force, and highlighted the need for a tough Western policy not just towards Serbia but also in our dealings with the Skopje Government.

Macedonia has been oppressing minorities for most of its life. Ever since it became independent from Belgrade in 1991, Macedonia has been rampantly anti-Albanian and discriminated against the massive minority populations of Muslims, pro-Bulgarian Slav-speakers, ethnic Turks and Gypsies.

But the West has fêted Skopje's ruler, President Gligorov, as a moderate. Its support for his attempts to achieve "stability" have acted as a quiet way of helping Serbia. In an unstable region, the apparent civic peace in Macedonia has looked to be a rare Balkans success story.

But there has been a high price to pay in civil liberties and human rights. Massive economic support has been provided by the IMF, but there has been no payback in democratisation of the Titoist political system. Although the situation had improved by last autumn, the 1994 Macedonian election was one of the most corrupt foreign observers had ever seen. Real political power, in any case, rests with the pro-Serb, Communist-dominated Ministry of the Interior.

Skopje has always oppressed minority groups

The original state and its borders were a child of Stalinism, the communist "solution" to the Macedonian Question that bedevilled the late Ottoman Europe. Under Tito, the socialist republic of Macedonia was a garden suburb of Serbia, used for cheap holidays, wine and food, the bottom of the Yugoslav heap in every way. A pro-Belgrade Skopje elite was built up, a motley collection of hardline Communists who were really Serbs thinly disguised as "Macedonians". They justified their hegemony through a manufactured history which was closer to mythology. But as long as all was peace and quiet, it didn't seem to matter much.

Beneath the surface, however, there is a very dark side to Macedonia. A side stained by Serb influence, and tainted by criminal money. The elite made millions by breaking United Nations sanctions against Serbia. In 1994 I remember sitting at the border checkpoint at night — the same place where the refugees are now suffering — watching convoys of fuel waved through and speeding towards Belgrade.

War criminals such as Arkan have substantial property business interests in Skopje and the town's casinos are a haven for Bosnian Serb, Montenegrin money-launderers and their cigarette smuggling money. Zoran Janakovic, the Yugoslav Ambassador and a close crony of President Milosevic, wields huge influence in Skopje. His writ runs in places that Western diplomacy cannot reach.

It is the dark side of Macedonia that we have witnessed this week, in its contemptuous treatment of the refugees. But despite the protestations, there is no good reason why most Kosovan refugees cannot stay in Macedonia. The west, where most Albanians live, is fertile and not overpopulated. Massive short-term help is needed, but that is all. The last thing that most refugees want is to be torn from a potentially supportive rural Islamic environment and relocated in some bleak hostel in Stockholm or Dagenham. The fuss about the tide of refugees is almost entirely political; if they remain for any length of time in Macedonia, they will not destabilise the state, only the privileged bosses with their old nomenklatura connections.

But the West must tackle this issue, and quickly. It is time foreign ministers saw the Skopje government system for what it really is — a relic of communism that needs rapid democratisation. If they do not, and widespread disorder breaks out, the communist dinosaurs will bring down the roof on the state itself.

As the entire state is essentially financed by the IMF, the power exists to force through rapid change. The Government has made some genuinely helpful gestures to improve ethnic relations, such as the release of all political prisoners from jail, but much more needs to be done. Higher education in the Albanian language needs full legitimisation and public spending must be fairly directed to minority areas.

The Macedonian and Greek Governments must be put under more pressure to resolve the name of the state, a long-running sore that prevents normal ties between Skopje and its natural economic partners in Salonika and prosperous, EU-orientated northern Greece. Turkey must be stopped from playing cheap politics with Skopje over national issues to irritate Athens.

But events are moving very fast, and some of these and other human rights reforms may be too late to prevent chaos and fragmentation. Nato should prepare plans for a de facto protectorate, as all previous history of the Macedonian Question shows that a crisis in Macedonia has been the catalyst for a much wider Balkan war. It is an unpleasant reality that should be faced if the darkness is not to spread over the whole southern Balkan region.

The author's book, *The New Macedonian Question*, will be published by Macmillan next month.

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Patriots for peace

Labour is wrong to denounce critics of this conflict. Dissent is honourable, argues Andrew Roberts

Voltaire would have found life difficult in today's Labour Party. Where is the space for principled dissent? Scotland's election campaign opened yesterday, and even before it began it had been marred by unattractive intolerance, and not from the Nationalists. Alex Salmond's entirely principled opposition to Nato's bombing of Serbia, which he claims has strengthened President Milosevic and worsened the plight of the Kosovan Albanians, drew a cheap, sneering response from Robin Cook. The SNP leader's criticisms of the offensive against Serbia, or at least the present airstrikes, have made him "the toast of Belgrade", says the Foreign Secretary, and "simply unfit to lead" in Scotland because he was "standing shoulder to shoulder with Milosevic".

A glance at the history books would show Mr Cook that, far from making them unfit to lead, opposing wars has afforded British politicians a fast track into office.

When the Tory press misrepresented the Labour leader Ramsay MacDonald's principled stand against the Great War as pro-German, it was rightly condemned in Labour circles as an unwarranted slur on his patriotism. Now that new Labour tries the same trick, we are told it is within the bounds of legitimate political discourse.

But the career of MacDonald should cause Mr Cook to reflect. Denounced as a traitor and pacifist in 1914 when he was neither, MacDonald became, for a time, the most unpopular man in Britain. He lost his West Leicester seat in the December 1918 election by 14,000 votes. Yet only six years later he was Prime Minister, borne to power by an electorate that by 1924 largely agreed with his assertion that the war had "put back the clock of civilisation a century in four years".

The Prime Minister during that war had been David Lloyd George, also no pacifist, who had virulently opposed the Boer War only 14 years before. Like Mr Salmond today, he believed Britain was committing an "unpardonable folly" fighting an aggressive war of "dubious legality". Both men said that while British servicemen deserved support, the politicians who deployed them deserved only criticism.

For his stand, Lloyd George was burnt in effigy in Criccieth, bludgeoned at Bangor, and escaped from a riot in Birmingham, in which two people died, only by dressing up as a policeman. "The man who tries to make the flag an object of a single party is a greater traitor to that flag than any man who fires at it," said Lloyd George, in words that Mr Salmond could reiterate with profit against Mr Cook. As the sheen of imperialism faded with the knowledge of the methods by which the Boer War was finally won, Lloyd George's career was boosted.

Britain has a long and honourable tradition of brave politicians opposing wars they consider wrongful, and their stands have rarely harmed them in the long run. William Pitt the Elder denounced the American War of Independence and the Prime Minister, Lord North, offered to resign in his favour once he was proved right. Lord Salisbury opposed the Crimean War, and it only enhanced his reputation for independent thought and action. Charles James Fox even opposed the Napoleonic Wars in 1803, but it did not prevent him from becoming Foreign Secretary three years later. For Mr Salmond to join this distinguished roll call of objectors augurs well for his future.

Opposing wars has given politicians a fast track to power

Unlike the Second World War or the Falklands conflict, where the issues were clear-cut and the objectors few and generally extremist, Nato's first aggressive war in half a century has raised understandable doubts in the minds of many Britons who would normally support the organisation. Despite the engagement of British servicemen abroad, it is not unpatriotic, as Mr Cook would have us believe, to question the nature of this war, and in particular his own department's blithe disregard for the all-important Law of Unintended Consequences. For all that we are told by Nato's Jamie Shea that the "surgical operations" have been a success, it is impossible not to notice that the patient has inconveniently died.

Perhaps the supporters of Nato, people who cheered its bloodless victory over the Warsaw Pact and admired its half-century of Western solidarity, were always being over-sanguine. They were hoping that for once in history a genuinely defensive alliance would not succumb to the fatal temptation of enlargement and self-aggrandisement. Here, they believed, was an organisation that was not so arrogant as to rewrite its uniquely successful founding charter. Instead, predictably enough, it ripped up the pledge not to expand itself 300 miles eastwards, given verbally to Mikhail Gorbachev at the time Russia allowed the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Instead of acting cautiously and modestly, in accord with its development since April 1949, Nato has acted hegemonically, thereby inflaming Russian nationalism at precisely the time that it can do most danger. It has acted in the same way that every overmighty political entity has done since Nineveh and Tyre with, one day doubtless, the same doomed result.

Despite their enormous individual contributions to the creation and administration of the British Empire, the Scottish are not quite so collectively jingoistic as the rest of the United Kingdom. It was no accident, as Roy Jenkins stated in his biography of Gladstone, that the constituency of Midlothian was chosen for the Liberal leader to deliver his philippics against Disraeli's "Forward" policies, which had led to much bloodshed in Zululand and Afghanistan. "It was a story that was to repeat itself in minor key," adds Jenkins, "just over a hundred years later when Scotland was noticeably cool on the Falklands war." It was cooler still over the Gulf War.

If Mr Salmond is accurately articulating what the opinions of his people might be in a few years' time about this latest adventure, sharing an opinion of the war that stretches across the political kaleidoscope from Tony Benn's Radicals to Alan Clark's High Tories, then Mr Cook's smears will prove as myopic as they are historically illiterate. For nowhere in Labour's 1997 manifesto was a mandate requested so to alter the nature of Nato as to unleash a war on a state which posed no threat to any Nato member.

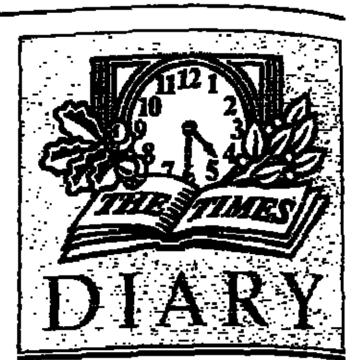
There might have been a case to make for an all-out ground war liberation of Kosovo, or for arming the Kosovan Liberation Army to fight the West's battle as the Mujahidin did in Afghanistan in the 1980s, or even for telling the Kosovan Albanians to try to make the best of their oppression as it was beyond Nato's remit to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Yet there is no case to be made for the present embarrassed, lukewarm and hugely counter-productive policy, and Mr Salmond is not "standing shoulder to shoulder" with Mr Milosevic for saying so.

The historian A.J.P. Taylor used to say that the two World Wars were essentially fought between the British House of Commons and the German High Command. Criticism continued unabated throughout the two wars in Britain; indeed both Herbert Asquith and Neville Chamberlain, who led the nation into the conflicts, were removed by the political process during them. The fact that free, informed debate carries on during the wars which Britain fights enormously strengthens her sense of moral superiority. This can be a tangible wartime asset. As Richard Overy's seminal book on the Second World War, *Why the Allies Won*, puts it: "Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Allied cause, the belief that they fought on the side of righteousness equipped them with a powerful moral armament", which translated itself into better morale.

No greater manifestation of a country's commitment to the great liberal values can be imagined than openly disputing the merits of a war while it is still being fought. As John Simpson reports from Belgrade, it is not happening there, any more than it does in any authoritarian regime. By resorting to gross misrepresentation and name-calling, the Government risks stopping such valuable criticism happening here too.

The author's biography of Lord Salisbury will be published in September.

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Duke's snub

AN OFFER by the Duke of Edinburgh to participate in next month's opening of the Welsh assembly has been spurned. The discourtesy is adding to royal anxiety about the sidelining of the Queen and her family from the ceremonies heralding the inauguration of the Celtic parliaments.

The Duke suggested that he might read a lesson during the service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff, which is being held before the opening to mark the event. The Duke and the Prince of Wales will be accompanying the Queen to the ecumenical service which has been organised by Cytun, a body representing churches in Wales.

But I hear the organisers have declined the ducal overture, explaining that they "would prefer someone who is Welsh to give the reading". With an emphasis on promoting an image of Cool Cymru during the opening functions, the chances are the lectern will now be taken by the likes of Tom Jones or Shirley Bassey.

DEJAN NIKOLIC, the organiser of the Belgrade Marathon, has reassured me that the race will go ahead this month as planned, although numbers will be down. Runners will bolt past the smoking ruins of the Interior Ministries, police academy and air defence building.



■ SUSAN PATTERSON, the American soprano appearing at the Coliseum for three months, is homesick. As Margarita in the ENO's production of *Mephistopheles*, in Act III she is supposed to sing: "I see it clearly, the alley leading straight to Martha's garden." But last week, Patterson (above) experienced a moment that Freud would have appreciated and sang instead: "The alley leading straight to Martha's Vineyard."

AFTER German dancers imported their own soil for a show at Sadler's Wells, a Taiwanese group has gone one better: Cloud Gate Dance Theatre has brought in three tonnes of rice for its debut at the Islington theatre next week.

■ WHILE the BBC urges its staff to be sensitive about using the word British, James Boyle has made a rare apology for an example of crass anti-Semitism on Radio 4.

The Controller has expressed his regrets to the Board of Deputies of British Jews over a reference to pig's organs in *The Ghost at No 10*. Mr Boyle acknowledged it was "offensive to Jews, made fun of their religious beliefs and pandered to stereotypes of Jewish people".

'EDWARD, SOMEBODY WANTS TICKETS FOR THE FIRST NIGHT!'



UNISON, the union for town hall workers, is considering applying Best Value criteria, new Labour's excuse for sacking roadsweepers and the like, to its £1 million contribution to the party in the hope of halving the donation.

■ TORIES in Richmond Park, Jeremy Hanley's former seat on the Thames, are eyeing up Chris Patten as their candidate. Hanley, the erstwhile chairman, lost the last election, and has let it be known that he does not intend to challenge the Liberal Democrat incumbent's near-3,000 majority.

"Chris already has a house here and could easily beat the Libs," gushes one Tory. But Lavender, his wife, could be an obstacle: "She would need a lot of persuading after his humiliation at Bath."

A Tate gallery spokesman has apologised that Chris Burden's sculpture, When Robots Rule: The Two Minute Airplane Factory, *has suffered a mechanical breakdown.*

EDWARD WELSH

'Millions of hopeful couples are keenly pursuing love's young dream of a big house on Easy Street with sponsors winding round the door'

Alan Coren

Up until very recently, Wee Willie Winkie, as you may have heard, ran through the town, upstairs and downstairs, in his night-gown. He did this every evening, to ensure that all the children were in bed. But he does not do that, now. Now, every evening, he runs only upstairs, to his own bed, and he stays there. He does not run downstairs at all. Mrs Winkie, having run upstairs a minute earlier, will not let him. She will not let him wear his night-gown, either. That is because the Winkies no longer give a tuppenny damn about anybody else's children. They are obsessed only with conceiving one of their own. For this is, quite literally, a seminal moment in the Winkies' lives, and if it is the right seminal moment, then, in nine months' time, the Winkies will be in clover: if, that's to say, an extremely wee Willie Winkie pops squawking out of Mrs Winkie at the last bong of midnight 1999, and thus becomes the first millennial baby, the world will beat a path to their door.

Laying, as it beats, a brand-new path, hanging a brand-new door, and building a brand-new house behind it, full of brand-new furniture. The world will then put a brand-new car in the brand-new Winkie garage, and a brand-new satellite dish on the Winkie roof, severally to include a lifetime supply of free petrol and a lifetime supply of free television channels. Very soon thereafter, lifetimes of free rusks, free toys, free clothes, free holidays, free banjo lessons, free health insurance, free dry-cleaning, free MCC membership, free houseplants, all manner of free gee-gaws and services, will wend their eager way to Chez Winkie, to say nothing of Max Clifford, the entire staff of *Hello!* magazine, and, naturally, Mr and Mrs Tony Blair, doubtless bearing a lifetime supply of free initiatives.

But it is, of course, a lottery, and you may therefore be sure that the Winkies are far from alone in hopefully taking a nightly punt. According to informed sources down at The Gynaecologist and Duck, this first week of April is critical, which is why the nation's nocturnal streets are eerily deserted and their houses atypically dark, if not exactly silent: from Land's End to John o'Groat's, millions of hopeful couples are keenly pursuing love's young dream of a big house on Easy Street with sponsors winding round the door. That millions-minus-one are doomed to disappointment does not stay them for a moment — though who can say it mightn't be the clincher if it did, this is horse-shoe-nail country, a moment is a long time on the cusp of a millennium, a moment too early or too late and millions-minus-one will be looking at parental lifetimes of unfree everything, never mind missing the neighbourhood fireworks party through being either pregnantly immobile or sitting in a maternity bed with an armful of unsubsidised new liability howling for the nipple.

But I am not here, even if I seem to be meandering that way, to ponder the morality or catastrophe of the current procreational shenanigans: I am here, as I generally am when things of major pith and moment are afoot, to ponder what might be in it for me. For while I break no confidences in saying that Mrs Coren and I are not ourselves going for the title — physiological realities must be faced, hanging nursery wallpaper is definitely out, with my back — that is not to say we are *hors de combat* in the matter of millennial freebies. In a culture as egregiously opportunist as ours, there must be umpteen other profitable strokes for enterprising greedies to pull at the stroke of 2000.

I haven't yet hit upon the ideal, mind, and wouldn't tell you if I had, but let me be generous enough to toss you a few suggestions which, for those readers similarly disinclined to spend next January changing nappies yet keen to make a fast bob or two, would probably do in a pinch. A midnight fax to *The Times*, say, declaring you had just heard the first millennial cuckoo might well secure a lifetime of free hearing aids, a cannily flattened tyre would allow you to make the first AA breakdown call of the millennium, surely bringing you free lifetime bracket-clock insurance, a chance to win a stylish timeshare on the Welsh Riviera, and a scale model of Lord Montagu, and becoming the first person in Y2K to join the Conservative Party would almost certainly mean a lifetime of free lawnmowing and shoeshines from William and Ffion.

Then again, why not kill two millennial birds with one stone? Start celebrating on December 1 and, one nano-second after December 31, turn up at your nearest all-night chemist with 2000's first hangover. You could be looking at a lifetime of free Alka-Seltzer.

TIMES PAST · THE TIMES · FUTURE

THE FINAL TEST

Monetary union should not be the gateway to political union

At a time when Europe's capacity for unity and international leadership has been so tragically questioned in the Balkans, it may seem troubling to discuss the issue of whether the single currency will create a political federation in Europe. Yet the human catastrophe in the former Yugoslavia should act as a reminder of the dangers of imposing artificial political templates on the patchwork of national identities and interests which constitutes political reality in Europe. When Tony Blair announced his Government's decision to try to persuade the British public to join monetary union, *The Times* suggested five tests that the project should meet before his Government could consider calling a referendum. The fifth and most fundamental of these related to the political implications of monetary union.

FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

Despite Mr Blair's breezy assurance that "there is no overriding constitutional objection" to monetary union, this fear of a march towards political unification remains the most important reason for popular hesitation about the single currency in Britain. The Prime Minister insists that fears about a drive towards deeper political integration are either irrelevant or vastly exaggerated. But most of the political leaders in EMU countries hold the opposite view. It may be, of course, that Mr Blair is right and continental politicians and central bankers are mistaken. Before Britain even contemplates joining EMU, there needs to be strong evidence that Mr Blair's view about the nature of monetary union is going to prevail.

The first test of the political implications of EMU relates simply to the ideological dynamics of Europe. Before the Prime Minister can even hope to be believed on the political innocuousness of EMU, there will have to be an end to the rhetoric from Brussels, Berlin, Paris and Rome about the political "deepening" of Europe. At present many European leaders continue to advocate curtailing national vetoes. Mr Blair can argue that all this is mere rhetoric, but as long as the leaders of Europe continue to be driven by federalist aspirations, it will be logical to conclude that they will use EMU to drive forward this project.

This is particularly true because of the second implication of monetary union. The single currency, by its very existence, will create economic forces which could encourage deeper political integration. By eliminating currency adjustments, EMU will focus attention on the competitive implications of divergent wage levels, tax structures and social security arrangements across Europe. As a result Germany and other high tax, high wage countries may try to impose their high costs on the rest of Europe by campaigning for majority voting on taxes and for restrictions on working conditions and "social dumping".

A third source of pressure for political co-ordination may arise from the EMU stability pact and the impact of future economic crises on different European countries. In the United States, when Texas falls into recession, its citizens pay less tax to Washington and receive more social benefits, while those of booming states pay proportionately more and receive less. This creates an automatic, but strictly temporary, redistribution mechanism that tends to reduce the impact of regional booms and busts. In Europe, no such mechanisms exist. While economists will argue about the theories behind this issue, the reality will be tested as soon as a part of Europe is hit by economic crisis. Britain must see firm evidence that pressures for a bigger federal budget do not, in practice, intensify.

A fourth source of political problems arises from the institutions created by EMU. The stability pact imposes limits on public borrowing by EMU countries. If the European Central Bank involves itself in Europe's fiscal debates, as the Bundesbank did in Germany, the pressures will mount for European finance mininsters to co-ordinate their fiscal policies and speak with one voice. EMU is also creating a culture of unanimity for members of the Euro-11 in their international dealings, with the G7, the IMF and the US. If such pressures for European unity keep mounting, they will present a final, decisive, argument against Britain joining EMU. Britain would suffer an irreversible erosion of its limited, but distinctive, influence on the world stage.

SERBS BEARING GIFTS

A cynical ceasefire offer that Nato has rightly dismissed

Nato's military commanders and political leaders alike had expected some sort of initiative from Serbia in advance of the Orthodox Easter weekend. They had also given warning in advance that "hollow half-measures" would not be allowed to stop the bombing. However, even the most hardened observer of Balkan politics could not have been prepared for the extraordinary performance by Vuk Draskovic, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, in televised appearances yesterday. Mr Draskovic calmly announced the predicted temporary ceasefire with all due flourish but added that the one million or more Kosovan Albanian refugees were welcome to return to their homeland.

This proclamation is unlikely to be received with rapture on the Macedonian border. Even if Kosovan Albanians were inclined to forget the events of the recent past and place their faith in the words of the Serbian authorities, they have ashes not houses to return to. This is such an utterly shameless diplomatic "offer" that Saddam Hussein must have felt a sense of envy. President Milosevic is well aware of the real conditions he needs to satisfy for serious negotiations to be reopened. He continues to show little interest in them.

If Mr Milosevic shows the slightest sign of slowing his onslaught on the Kosovans this week, it will be because he feels that he has already succeeded in meeting his objectives. The terror sown over the past two weeks may well have been enough by itself to persuade every single Kosovo Albanian to head towards the border. The only realistic prospect of their ever heading home will come if Nato's bombing alters the balance of power in Belgrade.

There is one aspect of the Draskovic statement that should be taken seriously. The Serbian leadership might be inclined to conclude an "internal settlement" with those members of the Kosovan political class whom it holds captive. A deal of this form would be no more acceptable than the latest nominal "ceasefire". Mr Milosevic's main aim over the next few days will be to spread division among the Nato nations, not to reconcile Kosovo with Serbia.

CHALK AND CHEESE

Blunkett should be supported on performance-related pay

David Blunkett's proposals on teaching salaries are, according to Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, speaking yesterday, a "tyranny" that represents the "greatest challenge" to the NUT in a century and upon which rests "the future of the education service in England and Wales". The policies pursued by the Prime Minister, he declared, were simply "disaster, disaster, disaster" for the teaching profession. The same blueprint was stoutly defended by Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, who told a sceptical audience at the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers that she was prepared to be "flexible" and that for the first 12 months the new scheme would be "voluntary".

This rhetoric might lead an innocent observer to conclude that Tony Blair and Mr Blunkett are setting out to slash classroom salaries. The truth is that the Government plans to spend an extra £1 billion on pay over the next two years but intends to direct these additional resources towards the most talented teachers. An aspect, but not the only element, of this package involves whether an individual teacher's efforts translate into improving results for pupils. This is the "outrage" that led to Mr Blunkett's heckling by the NUT on Saturday and Mr McAvoy's outburst.

The NUT now plans to call for a ballot on a one-day strike as part of its campaign of industrial activity. The teaching unions believe that Mr Blunkett can be forced into diluting his ideas beyond recognition. The Secretary of State should not buckle at this blackmail. The Government has offered enough concessions on this issue already. These proposals represent the means by which teaching salaries can be increased in a fashion that will not divert resources from the central task of raising standards.

The NUT executive would, it seems, prefer equality of poverty to differential affluence. It argues that either the task of evaluating merit among teachers is impossible or that to do so would be enormously divisive. Mr McAvoy has claimed that it would be invidious to make distinctions among those who are performing the same basic functions. On this logic, the salaries bill at Manchester United and Macclesfield Town should be identical.

Teachers rightly aspire for their occupation to be recognised as a "profession". One of the most elementary features of a profession is that of individual contracts, not collective bargaining. Performance-related pay may well be rotten news for full-time union officials. It is, however, a real opportunity for ordinary teachers.

Mr McAvoy's opposition is not, however, very surprising. The most astonishing aspect of this whole saga is that David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, seems to be supporting the unions. Mr Willetts has condemned strike threats but believes Mr Blunkett would be "making a serious mistake if he presses ahead with a scheme which the whole profession considers unworkable". Conservative ministers, correctly, never permitted the NUT a *de facto* veto on policy when they held office. The Tories should be pushing Mr Blunkett to go faster and further in the direction that he is taking. Mr Willetts will be making a serious mistake if he presses ahead with a position that the vast majority of voters, including almost all Conservative sympathisers, will consider utterly incredible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

KLA resistance to Serb 'brutality'

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Can I suggest, if Nato is unable to deploy ground forces to Kosovo in support of its air operations, that there is an alternative strategy which is worth contemplating. This is to give fully-fledged support to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), whose insurgency now stands to benefit from the diminution of Serb strength on the ground arising from Nato's air attacks.

The congenital weakness of the KLA could now be reversed by enabling it to exploit four features of the strategic situation which are likely to develop as spring passes into summer:

1. The existence of a greatly weakened adversary on the ground in Kosovo.
2. The existence of a unifying cause arising from the brutalisation of the ethnic Albanian population by the Serbs which could encourage fierce resistance to oppression and expulsion.
3. Favourable geographical features which can be exploited in guerrilla warfare.
4. The existence of outside support from the world's best armed military alliance.

Clearly, the KLA's strategic aims would be full independence for Kosovo but with entrenched rights for the Serb population, guaranteed by the presence of a Nato peace-enforced contingent, similar to those now deployed in Bosnia under the rubric of an international peace agreement.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
The Institute of Economic and Political Studies,
Instep Cambridge,
Warkworth House,
Warkworth Terrace,
Cambridge CB1 1EE.
April 6.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto

Sir, The Rabbis said, "He who saves a life saves a world". Members of the Jewish community like myself must be thrilled by the courage and compassion shown by Clare Short as she led Kosovan refugees into the Macedonian relief camp (report, April 6). Sent by her Government only to observe, as an individual she felt compelled to act.

Had we had politicians of her like in the 1940s, how many millions of Jews, Gypsies and others might have been saved through this example?

Sir Alfred Sherman deplores Nato going beyond its remit as a defensive alliance (letter, April 6). Clare Short may be ushering us into a new political age which reflects the public view that governments can no longer act purely out of self-interest.

People now seem ready for soldiers to die to save the lives of the persecuted out of a sense of a common humanity.

No wonder Saddam Hussein is the only Arab leader supporting a government which is victimising his own co-religionists (report, April 6). He knows that the determination of Nato to prevent oppression without regard to national boundaries spells an end for all dictators who, through their awesome brutality, terrorise their citizens and neighbouring states into submission.

Faithfully,
SIDNEY BRICHTO
(Senior Vice-President, Union of Liberal & Progressive Synagogues),
The Montagu Centre,
21 Maple Street, W1P 6DS.
bevtaylor@aol.com
April 6.

From Mr Larry Rushton

Sir, Clare Short, a British minister, is presumably a guest in Macedonia (today's front page). Therefore she should not be publicly urging its government officials to disobey instructions.

This is particularly offensive when they are struggling to cope with a refugee problem greatly aggravated by British government actions.

Yours sincerely,
LARRY RUSHTON,
10 Smith Close,
Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DW.
April 6.

From Professor Emeritus Philip S. James

Sir, Is it not folly for a pot to call a kettle black? Is it not a war crime for us and our bomb-happy Allies to endanger the lives of our gallant servicemen by raining down death and destruction upon open cities?

One can only reflect that an untutored generation can hardly be expected to recall the twin lessons of the 19th century that a nation's internal affairs are its own and that punitive expeditions have usually done more harm than good.

Permit me, Sir, to prophesy that, faced as we now appear to be with a consensus of *informed* opinion against this ominously dangerous piece of folly, Mr Blair would do well to execute one of his customary political retreats.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP S. JAMES,
Chestnut View, Mill Lane,
Whitfield, Brackley,
Northamptonshire NN13 5TQ.
April 2.

Child's right to British nationality

From Sir Dick Pantlin

Sir, Mr James Wilde (letter, March 27) describes the Foreign Secretary's move to restore full British citizenship to the islanders of Tristan da Cunha as "a just, if belated, restoration of their rightful status".

It is to be hoped that the Foreign Secretary will correct a further unjustifiable omission by ensuring that second-generation children of British citizens born in continental EU countries do not automatically lose their right to pass on British nationality, no doubt in the belief that they will have "gone native".

It is of great importance to Britain that more and more families decide to set up homes and create businesses in continental Europe. Their children and grandchildren will learn foreign languages and be used to working in a foreign culture, thus becoming ideal candidates later to work in the UK or abroad for British interests. These restrictions do not apply to those "in Crown service", yet families in business and other professions are treated differently, which is absurd.

This matter could be solved by but a tiny alteration to the same Act ("birth in these States being equivalent to birth in the UK"), could not take more than a few minutes of parliamentary time, cannot possibly meet with political opposition, is within the spirit of EU legislation which encourages mobility of labour, and would avoid condemning a child — who might well wish in due course to return to Britain — to a future linked to the actions of his or her parents and grandparents.

It is doubtful if the number of persons involved in the next few years would equal the present population of the Pitcairn Islands, but an important step will have been taken to encourage the greater involvement of British families in continental Europe. This will be necessary whatever may be the precise future nature of Britain's links with that area.

Yours sincerely,
DICK PANTLIN,
11 Avenue de Mercure,
Brussels B.1180.
April 1.

From Mr Piers Litherland

Sir, I know of no ancestor of mine born outside Britain. And yet, under the terms of current British nationality legislation, I am unable to pass on my inherited British nationality to my children because I happened to be born outside Britain in the then British territory of Rhodesia.

I am only British "by descent". In this respect, I am less British than any child born in Britain — even a child born to a refugee, illegal immigrant or tourist with no previous connection of any sort with this country.

In the one case an accident of birth conveys full British citizenship, in my own it denies it. Can this be right?

I remain yours etc,
PIERS LITHERLAND,
Flat 3, 10a/b Stanley Beach Road,
Stanley, Hong Kong.
April 2.

Speed traps

From Mr T. Keith Taylor

Sir, Mr R. J. Butler (letter, March 31) criticises the publication of details of speed-control measures. Surely the use of cameras and the like is to reduce traffic speeds to the legal level and not primarily to entrap motorists.

Sincerely,
T. KEITH TAYLOR,
Acers, 11 Green Oak Road,
Watton, Norfolk IP25 6BE.
April 3.

From Mr A. G. E. White

Sir, Recently browsing the microfiche of *The Times* for August 1914 for Open University work, I was surprised to note, in passing, two editorial features advising motorists of the positioning of speed traps. I did not see any adverse comment from the police.

Have we become too subservient?

Yours humbly,
ARCHIE WHITE,
11 Tynedale Court,
Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1RN.

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, If disclosing the locations of speed cameras encourages lawbreaking, why then are there usually large notices warning drivers of these devices?

The legality or otherwise of the disclosure of speed traps by those unauthorised to do so is more debatable.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue,
Crewe CW1 3SW.
a1311755@infotrade.co.uk
April 1.

From Mr Malcolm Penny

Sir, It is perhaps a matter of personal perception, but I would have thought that drivers are not "trapped" into exceeding speed limits; instead, they volunteer themselves for prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM PENNY,
57 Boyn Hill Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire SL6 4HR.
April 1.

Irked by inaction

From Mr Chris Ogilvie-Taylor

Sir, Any sympathy that I had for our manufacturing industry in decline has fast evaporated following my recent experience of trying to place business, on behalf of a large retailer, with a UK manufacturer of printed fabrics, rather than the usual Far East source of supply.

My brief was for fabric finished as a fashion accessory, which required a certain amount of handworking. Everyone I spoke to could print the fabric but didn't want to do the finishing; so they suggested a competitor!

Not one company out of the 12 that I called had the gumption to ask for more details, take my name, or say they'd look into it and get back to me. I got the impression that it all sounded too much trouble to them, and as it didn't fit exactly with what they'd been doing for the last 20 years, they'd be best to let it pass.

With such a large order at stake, we've returned to sourcing from outside the UK but this experience leaves me bemused and exasperated. I'm quite sure that those dozen companies badly need new business but they wouldn't adapt themselves to my needs.

The only way for our manufacturing industry to survive is to ask customers what they want and respond to those needs and opportunities, not just distribute what they've already got.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS OGILVIE-TAYLOR
(Managing Director),
Marsden Grant International Ltd,
58 Queen Anne Street, W1M 9LA.
April 6.

Arm-twisting software

From Mrs Kate Perera

Sir, I have been accustomed for many years now to using word-processing software for the production of reports, letters and other pieces of writing. Each time I update my software, while fascinated by the new possibilities offered in terms of layout and appearance, I become further irritated by other people's attempts to dictate my writing style, spelling and grammar.

I am no longer allowed to produce any sentence over three lines long, no matter how clear its subject, construction and punctuation; my grammar is unnecessarily questioned; I am obliged to use bullet-points when none is required; and I suffer from software which asks if I want its help when it notices that I am writing a letter.

Obviously I can, and do, switch off these minor nuisances. What concerns me, however, is that their default setting is "on", ie, they start from a basic assumption of ignorance and incapability. When at the same time newspapers produce whole supplements lamenting the decline of educational standards, I cannot help wondering whether my computer software is symptomatic, and whether we are simply not asking young people to think or do enough for themselves.

I do not believe that the correct solution is to provide automatic correction without first stimulating the individual to both make and learn from his or her own mistakes.

Yours faithfully,
KATE PERERA,
25 Ashlyns Road,
Berkhamsted HP4 3BN.
April 3.

The landfill tax

From the Director, Business and Environment, The Paper Federation of Great Britain, and others.

Sir, We welcome the Chancellor's recognition in the Budget of the importance of the landfill tax in encouraging more recycling. The increased tax will be a valuable instrument supporting the recovery and recycling of waste by ensuring that the costs of landfill more accurately reflect its environmental costs.

However, we believe that the Treasury must go further and increase the overall proportion of the tax earmarked for investment in the recovery and recycling infrastructure. Without such investment the substantial increases in recycling which the Government and the public desire will not be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN BATEMAN,
Director, Business and Environment,
The Paper Federation of Great Britain,
RAY GEORGESON,
Executive Director, Waste Watch,
KEN MANTON,
Chairman, Waste and Environment Committee, Local Government Association,
The Paper Federation of Great Britain,
Papermakers House,
Rivenhall Road, Swindon SN5 7BD.
April 6.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Business plan for single currency

From Mr Giles Radice, MP for Durham North (Conservative), and Mr Bill Rammell, MP for Harlow (Labour)

Sir, MORI, Gallup, NOP, Eurofile, City Research and others have consistently shown that British business is behind the single currency. The poll published yesterday by Business for Sterling (report, March 31) has, in our view, been designed around leading questions and false logic.

With 86 per cent of those surveyed having heard "little" or "nearly nothing" about the implications of the single currency, it is no surprise that the base of British euroscepticism is rooted in confusion and misinformation. This problem is most marked among smaller businesses, which are the least informed and the most eurosceptic. Perhaps Business for Sterling should focus more on why these two factors are so frequently related.

Interestingly, it remains silent about its finding that 56 per cent of businesses say Britain will end up losing out while other countries in the eurozone benefit. Similarly, it hasn't mentioned the 51 per cent of businesses who agree that our future is in Europe and that we have to go in wholeheartedly.

Businesses across Britain need to plan for the single currency as a reality. Whilst Business for Sterling might want to put its head in the ground, real businesses need to be informed and prepared for the single currency. This is the real issue for business.

Yours sincerely,
GILES RADICE,
Chairman, European Movement,
BILL RAMMELL,
Chairman, Labour Movement for Europe,
House of Commons.
April 1.

Free for all

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, The Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Mr Charles Saumarez Smith (letter, April 2), points out the failure of compulsory admission charges to the national museums and galleries imposed by the Heath Government and the disastrous drop in visitor numbers to this institution in 1974.

In 1970, when the Wilson Government was in power, the Treasury decreed that entrance charges should be levied to visit the Annigoni portrait of the Queen at the National Portrait Gallery.

However, the Treasury was outflanked by Jennie Lee (then Minister for the Arts), who told it that the donor (myself) would offer to hang the portrait in "Harrods stores" if the then owners would agree.

I asked Miss Lee the Treasury's reply. It was simply, "Yes, Minister".

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT
21 Rue du Lac,
CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland.
April 6.

Bishop's move?

From the Right Reverend Henry Richmond

Sir, On Saturday (March 27) my wife received junk mail, inviting her to buy a book which would bestow longevity by putting her in touch with her former incarnations. Her reply was to ask to be removed from their mailing list.

I then read an article in *The Times* Weekend, informing me that the name Joshua, the Hebrew name for Jesus, was "a negative name. Intelligent but introverted, and does not cope well with stress. Will experience relationship problems in late teens that could lead to drug and alcohol abuse".

Should I ask to be removed from my newsagent's *Times* paper-round?

Yours faithfully,
†HENRY RICHMOND,
39 Hodges Court,
Marlborough Road,
Oxford OX1 4NZ.
March 28.

Clarification sought

From Mr Peter Wade

Sir, To assist Mr Anthony P. Moran's search for an expression to describe Service personnel wearing fluorescent waistcoats over camouflage uniforms (letter, April 6), I feel that the word "stealth" should be in there somewhere.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WADE,
12 Bell Close,
Colchester, Essex CO2 8EP.
April 6.

Rites of spring

From Mr Antony Walker

Sir, You do not report daily that the Sun rose in the East, so why report annually that the National Union of Teachers is opposed to reform of the education system (April 3)?

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY G. T. WALKER,
Spiti Hippocampus,
PO Box 70,
Pissouri 4607, Cyprus.
April 3.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 6: The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Mrs Christian Adams as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 6: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, this evening chaired a Meeting of The Prince Philip Trust Fund for The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, at Windsor Castle.

ST JAMES'S CASTLE
April 6: The Prince of Wales this morning visited Sutherland where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland (Major-General David Houston).

His Royal Highness this morning visited Hunters of Brora Ltd, Brora, Sutherland.

His Royal Highness later visited Seaforth House Residential and Day Care Centre, Golspie, Sutherland.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Inverness where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness (The Rt Hon The Lord Gray of Contin).

His Royal Highness later visited the Renal and Oncology Unit, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and as Patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, His Royal Highness subsequently unveiled a bench outside the hospital.

The Prince of Wales later visited Nairn where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nairn (The Earl of Leven and Melville).

His Royal Highness finally visited Cantraybridge Rural Skills College, Cawdor, Nairn.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 6: The Princess Royal, Honorary Air Commodore, this afternoon visited Royal Air Force Lyneham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will launch the Royal News Magazine on the Internet, at Cafe Internet, 22/24 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, at 11.00.

Birthdays today

Mr Dennis Amiss, cricketer, 56; Viscount Brentford, 66; Miss Fredda Brilliant, sculptor, 91; Mr Jean Colonna, fashion designer, 44; Mr Francis Ford Coppola, film director, 60; Mr Gerry Cottle, circus proprietor, 54; Sir Geoffrey Cox, former Editor and Chief Executive, ITN, 89; Mr Luca Cumani, racehorse trainer, 50; Professor Sir Graeme Davies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow University, 62; Professor D.R. Denman, land economist, 88; Mr Peter Fluck, satirist and puppeteer, 58; Sir David Frost, broadcaster, 60; Mr F.L. Garner, former chairman, Pearl Assurance, 79; Mr James Garner, actor, 71; Sir Terence Harrison, former chief executive, Rolls-Royce, 66; Mr Geoffrey Heywood, former President, Institute of Actuaries, 83; Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet, 85; Mr Gorden Kaye, actor, 58; Mr Martyn Lewis, broadcaster, 54; Mr Cliff Morgan, former head of outside broadcasting, BBC Television, 69; Mrs Jane Priestman, former director, architecture and design, British Rail, 69; Mr Ian Richardson, actor, 65; Mr Andrew Sachs, actor, 69; Herr Gerhard Schröder, German Chancellor, 55; Pandit Ravi Shankar, sitar player, 79; Group Captain Mary Shaw, former director and matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 66; Miss Alison Shrubsole, former Principal, Homerton College, 74; Mr David J. Williams, former Chief Constable, Surrey, 58; Mr Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, honorary secretary, Barbarian Football Club, 63.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bonds prizewinners were announced yesterday:

£100,000:
13HF 699919, winner has a holding of £15,050 and comes from Lancashire; 83AB 648702, £6,150, Dorset; 24FF 126181, £11,135, South Yorkshire; 46QL 383284, £15,000, Kent; 54JN 671763, £5,200, Surrey; 76TZ 014718, £9,485, Enfield.

£50,000:
57MW 031345, £20,000, Oxfordshire; 11JS 188486, £20,000, Somerset; 62RK 705036, £14,500, Lancashire; 88EW 262985, £20,000, East Sussex; 52HB 094775, £8,160, East Lothian; 1FT 605651, £6,022, Cheshire; 68ES 702151, £1,004, Lancashire; 75FZ 135432, £20,000, Lincolnshire; 65AS 618916, £4,000, Hampshire; 88EF 756317, £18,900, Hillingdon; 66LN 642644, £12,000, Essex; 33DW 667507, £17,750, Staffordshire.

£25,000:
84AF 954820, £8,200, Merseyside; 7BB 025300, £1,055, Cumbria; 48PF 698288, £375, Kent; 15MF 805649, £12,000, Essex; 5EL 448486, £85, Oxfordshire; 2NP 452792, £40, West Yorkshire; 96DP 756445, £5,000, Bristol; 89MZ 374085, £5,000, Overseas; 93EZ 678326, £1,000, Dorset; 30PB 087314, £50, Glasgow; 86MT 833064, £18,500, Cambridgeshire; 24YW 021153, £8,330, Essex; 47VP 958617, £6,555, Westminster; 58DN 067569, £20,000, South Yorkshire; 61GZ 654189, £2,260, Hampshire; 60GB 103418, £3,000, Kent; 52WF 053053, £1,750, Shropshire; 94JL 394352, £20,000, Hammersmith and Fulham; 34ES 013355, £8,050, West Sussex; 17AF 119787, £20,000, Merton; 75HN 923178, £20,000, Lancashire; 57FS 149363, £20,000, Cambridgeshire; 8LN 703633, £2,471, West Midlands; 96AW 616536, £1,000, Hampshire.

Academy plans £14m 'living museum' of music

Historic instruments will be seen and played

By Dalya Alberge
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Academy of Music, which has one of the world's finest collections of historic instruments, is planning to revolutionise the way these are displayed — with a £14 million "living museum", which will open next year in a building beside the academy.

The traditional museum approach, with instruments propped up forlornly in glass cases, will be scrapped so that the public can see and hear the finest examples being played, while observing and talking to master craftsmen as they make new ones.

Curtis Price, Principal of the academy, one of the world's premier conservatoires, said: "This will be a new concept in museums. It will be the only place in the world where members of the public can come in off the street and see great Strad instruments on display and hear them being played. There will be informal concerts, lectures and workshops."

He is dismayed that instruments at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London or the Musée de la Musique in Paris are never played. In Paris, "they are locked away behind armoured glass, half an inch thick, and never touched — except by curators. That makes me weep. If you see an instrument, you want to know what it sounds like."

Never allowing anyone to play them is madness, he said. While accepting that some instruments are extremely fragile, he disagrees with museum curators who believe that every time an instrument is played, original evidence is lost. They deteriorate if they are not played, he argues.

But James Yorke, assistant curator of the V&A's furniture department who is responsible for its musical collection, said it would never allow anyone to perform on such historic exhibits: "Every time you play them, there is the risk of a slight deterioration."

The academy museum will be based in a building at York Gate, which has been acquired with nearly £8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Turning it into a museum will cost a further £6 million, but the academy is well on target, having already raised more than £4 million from private sources.

Its collection has just received an added boost: a Stradivarius cello sold by Christie's for more than £500,000 last month was donated to the academy by an anonymous benefactor.

It has the greatest collection of old Italian stringed instruments in the world, as well as pianos and brass instruments (the largest collection of 18th and 19th-century instruments in the country), and a precious archive that ranges from one of only two surviving musical manuscripts in the hand of John Dowland (1563-1626), the great English composer, singer and lutenist, to the original manuscripts of Gilbert and Sullivan.

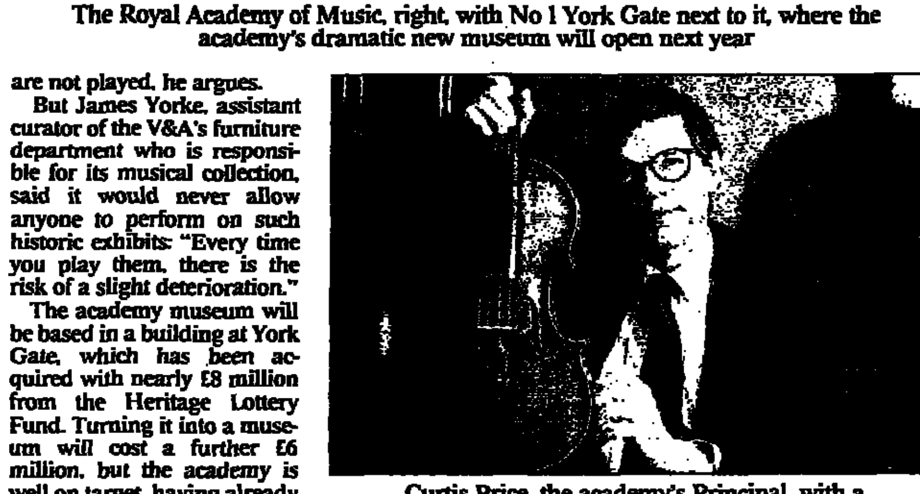
Among up to 300 stringed instruments are no fewer than seven by Stradivarius, including one worth more than £3 million.

Until now the academy, which has never had the space to display its collection, has lent out instruments to students and young professionals. Their insurance company understands the importance of getting instruments played, but has "specific guidelines"; for example, no more than four Stradivarii are allowed in any room at any one time or to travel on the same aircraft.

"I strongly feel that unless they are played, they die," Dr Price said. "The Stradivari Museum in Cremona has a small collection. They employ someone to play them every day. Otherwise they do lose their voice.

"A violin is made of wood that is meant to vibrate. If wood isn't exercised in this way, it becomes rigid and stiffens up."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



The Royal Academy of Music, right, with No 1 York Gate next to it, where the academy's dramatic new museum will open next year

Curtis Price, the academy's Principal, with a Stradivarius viola from its collection

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary, Navarre, Spain, 1506; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Cockermouth, Cumbria, 1770; Randall Thomas Davidson, Baron Davidson of Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury 1903-28, Edinburgh, 1848; Gabriela Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1945, Vicuna, Chile, 1889; Sir David Low, political cartoonist, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1891; Billie Holiday, jazz singer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1915.

DEATHS: Sir William D'Avenant, Poet Laureate 1638-68, London, 1668; St Jean Baptiste de La Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, Rouen, 1719; Dick Turpin, highwayman, executed, York, 1739; Phineas Barnum, showman, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1891; Henry Ford, car manufacturer, Dearborn, Michigan, 1947; Theda Bara, silent film star, Los Angeles, 1955; Jim Clark, world champion racing driver, killed in an accident, Hockenheim, Germany, 1968.

Mount Vesuvius erupted, 1906.

WHO, the World Health Organisation, was established in Geneva, 1948.

Swedish civil servant Dag Hammarskjold was elected UN Secretary-General, 1953.

CND supporters marched from London to Aldermaston in a ban-the-bomb protest, 1958.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Patricia Robson, Priest-in-Charge, St Enoder (Truro): has been appointed Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral (same diocese).

The Rev Robert Rogers, Assistant Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust (York): has been appointed Senior Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust.

The Rev Ian Scott, Assistant Chaplain, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust: has been appointed Chaplain, South Warwickshire Combined Care NHS Trust (Coventry).The Rev Hilda Wild, Curate, Newark (Southwark): to be Vicar, Earlsdon St Barbara (Coventry).

Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, will be held on Thursday, April 22, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2.

The Marine Society

The 227th annual court of The Marine Society will be held at 11.30, on Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Lambeth, when Commodore N.D. Squire, CBE, former Commodore, Royal Fleet Auxiliary will give an address.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.P. Brant and Miss G.F. Walshaw
The engagement is announced between Geoff, son of Mr and Mrs L. Brant, of Kenardington, Kent, and Gilly, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Walshaw, of Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire.

Mr J.A. Cox and Miss J.E. Duff
The forthcoming marriage is announced, and will take place on June 21, 1999, in Portland, Oregon, USA, between Jeffrey Allen, only son of Mr and Mrs Norman Cox, of Portland, Oregon, USA, and Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Duff, of Ilford, Essex.

Mr T.W.C. Edge and Miss E.M. Ford
The engagement is announced between Titus, only son of Major and Mrs William Edge, of Fovant, Wiltshire, and Marina, eldest daughter of Mr David Ford, CBE, and Mrs Ford, of São Paulo, Brazil.

Mr J.D. Ford and Miss S.M. Herbert
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Ford, of Woolpit, Suffolk, and Susannah, younger daughter of Mr Robin Herbert, of Llanover, Monmouthshire, and Mrs Margaret Herbert, of Llanarth, Monmouthshire.

Mr D.E. Higgins and Miss J.K. Cowler
The engagement is announced between David Edward, son of Mr and Mrs James Higgins, of Aldwick, Sussex, and Joanna Kathryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Cowler, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr R.P.W. Johnstone and Miss J.S. Stewart
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of the late Major Ian Johnstone, of Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wiltshire, and of Mrs Susan Day, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Stewart, of Chapel House, Kettlebridge, Fife.

Mr P.T. Lalor and Miss L.J.L. Wells
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs L.J. Lalor, of Umhlanga Rocks, Natal, South Africa, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Wells, of Littleton, Guildford, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr J.V. Wroe and Miss M.G.M. Harrison
The marriage took place on April 5, 1999, at St Joseph's Church, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, between Mr John Wroe and Miss Marie Harrison.

Council for Licensed Conveyancers

The following were successful in the Council for Licensed Conveyancers Winter 1999 Examinations:

Foundation Law of Contract

Christine Alexander, Sevenoaks; Rachel Bairstow, Heckmondwike; Gillian Bebbington, Manchester; Emma Benson, Bolton; Christine Blenkinsop, Stanley; Jacqueline Burdett, Wellingborough; Donna Cross, Worcester; Anita Cundall, Wirral; Helen Dawson, Bingley; Sukhdev Dhinsa, Coventry; Nigel Deal, Grays; Samantha Edginton, Birmingham; Clare Farrell, Middleton; Deborah Glazier, Hastings; David Gray, Leighton Buzzard; Samuel Gyan, London; Finola Hoiwell, Daventry; Susan Hudson, Northampton; James Jackson, Warrington; Alison Kettley, Northampton; Linda Lyons, Nottingham; Julia Mallard, Manchester; Sally Maloney, Swansea; Pamela Massam, Halifax; Andrea Moran, Accrington; Mandy Moreton, Bradford; Beryl O'Raw, Warrington; Karen Richards, Aberystwyth; Leon Richards, Salford; Julia Sansome, Olney; Chazala Shah, Ruislip; Lisa Skinner, Sheerness; Susan Smith, Stockport; Heena Studman, Banbury; Andrew Sutcliffe, Brighouse; Janette Sweetman, Hailsham; Deanne Turner, Stanford-le-Hope; Deborah Vaughan, Bicknacre; Claire Welford, Northampton; Joanne Wood, Pontypool; Sally Wood, Kirby Le Soken.

Foundation Land Law

Karen Ashton, Shrewsbury; Linda Bates, Bishop's Stortford; Kanishka Bodh, Southall; Jacqueline Braddock, Pattingham; Jennifer Burns, Scarborough; Donna Cross, Worcester; Emma Davis, Shoeburyness; Sukhdev Dhinsa, Coventry; Carin Donn, Newport; Timothy Duggan, Eastleigh; Samantha Edginton, Birmingham; Elaine Garnett, Stockport; Jean Hall, Northampton; Rachel Harrison, Bournemouth; Kathryn Heathfield, Maidstone; Patrick Hennessy, Wraxall; Marianne Holloway, Hook; Kazi Hossain, Putney; Joanne King, Ware; Louise Lay, Godalming; Susan Notley, Bury St Edmunds; Leslie Read, Croydon; Karen Richards, Aberystwyth; Gillian Sandford, Leeds; Susan Simons, Elstree; Christine Simpson, Sheerness; Nicola Sims, Cardiff; Lisa Skinner, Sheerness; Jeanette Staplehurst, Hassocks; Caroline Tuston, Farnborough; Josephine Wheatley, Peterborough.

Final Accounts

Maureen Addison, Northampton; Karen Ashton, Shrewsbury; Susan Atha, Wilmslow; *Madeline Bailey, Croydon; Kate Barwick, Billericay; Gregory Begg, Brentwood; Joanne Bigg, Basildon; Cheryl Brabon, Reading; Elizabeth Bryson, Southampton; Stephen Carew, Luton; Janet Clare, Enfield; Tracy DaCosta, Woodford Green; *Deborah Gent, Laindon; Susan Gollop, Bladon; Michael Harnetty, Wickford; Susan Hoyle, Sowerby Bridge; Steffen Hullah, Bristol; *Susan Jennings, Greenhithe; *Julie Killengrey, Brentwood; Adrian Knibbs, Kidderminster; Stephanie Lyle, Connah's Quay; Valede Lynn, Maldon; Kerry Manning, Witham; Lisa Martin, Rayleigh; Claire Mason, Braintree; *Karen Matthews, Basingstoke; Nicola Randles, Oswestry; Lesley Read, Croydon; Renata Steggles, Norwich; Sandra Tennant, Thurmaston; Judith Welman, Copenhagen; Valerie Williams, London; Martin Williamson, Darlington.

Final Landlord and Tenant

Catherine Ball, Gravesend; Elizabeth Bryson, Southampton; Robert Croft, Woking; Tracy DaCosta, Woodford Green; Frieda Dad, Bourne End; Susan Dodsworth, Leeds; Stephen Draper, Rossendale; Caroline Evans, Barrow in Furness; Samantha Hicks, Northampton; Debra Kerrigan, Bolton; Amanda Kirwan, Daventry; Joanne Lett, Northampton; Patrick Logan, Colchester; Karma Marchese, St Columb Major; Lynne Overton, Crawley; Annette Rayner, Walton on the Naze; Jane Salt, Northampton; Julie Sheldon, Leeds; June Slater, Thorpe Bay; Daniel Sonah, London; Susan Stevenson, Sale; Nancy Walker, Northampton; Louise Watts, Northampton; Judith Welman, Copenhagen; Crispin Wren, Northampton.

Final Conveyancing Law and Practice

Christine Alexander, Sevenoaks; Linda Andrews, Crockham Hill; Matthew Ball, Ilford; Gary Bissmire, Bromley; *Elizabeth Bryson, Southampton; Michele Churcher, Enfield; Annette Colson, Felixstowe; Frieda Dad, Bourne End; Margaret Forrest, Blackburn; Simon Hawkins, Poole; Stephen John-Cyrus, West Ealing; Janice Lewis, Swansea; Philomena McMullen, Cardiff; Amanda Nelson, Chorley; Joanna Oliver, Newport; Janet Rhodes-Blangsted, West Molesey; Geoffrey Robinson, Cardiff; Beverley Roocroft, Bolton; Edward Rubidge, Canvey Island; Julie Rundle, Plymouth; Christine Simpson, Slade Green; Christine Smith, Shrewsbury; Kathy Taylor, Sandbach; Mina Thompson, London; Debra Tobin, Aberdare; *Judith Welman, Copenhagen; Charlotte Worley, Romford.

* denotes Distinction

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Don't be jealous of violent people or decide to act as they do, because the LORD hates people who do evil, but he takes righteous people into his confidence. Proverbs 3.31-32 (GNB).

BIRTHS

ARTHUR - See Brown.

ATKINSON - On 4th March at Guy's Hospital, to Heather (née Towell) and Adam, a son, Alastair Silas Garnier, a brother for Bethia and Eleanor.

BELL - On 17th March to Sophia (née FitzHugh) and Gary, a daughter, Emily Rafela, a sister for Harry and Tobias.

BENEGIAMO - On March 30th at The Portland Hospital to Janet and Luca, a son, Marco, a brother for Giulia.

BROWN - On 27th March, to Diana (Dido, née Arthur) and Alan, a son, Augustus Allan Xavier, a brother for Maximilian.

BURROUGH - On April 2nd 1999, to Philippa (née Collyer) and Bryan, a son, George Henry Grant, a brother for Leo.

BUTCHER - On 28th March 1999, to Henrietta (née Neville) and Jonathan, a daughter, Matilda "Tilly" Anna Cassley, a sister for Charles.

CALVERT - To Tilly and Tom on 25th March 1999 a son, Bertram David, a brother for Jack and Susannah.

CANNETI - On March 28th at The Portland Hospital to Romana (née Wenkert) and Alex, a daughter, Mimosa, a sister to Cosima.

CARE - On March 29th 1999, to Alison (née Fellows) and Tim, a daughter, Isobel Frances Fellows, a sister for Charlie.

CLEMPSON - On March 9th at The Portland Hospital to Emma and Graham, a son, Sam, a brother for Lily.

COHEN - On March 31st at The Portland Hospital to Amanda (née Clumpus) and Jonathan, a son, Jamie, a brother for Ellie.

DOHERTY - On March 31st at The Portland Hospital to Evelyn and Patrick, a son, Joshua Callum, a brother for Conor.

EATON HART - On Monday 29th March 1999, to Sarah (née Evans) and Andrew, a son, Jonathan Harry.

GREEN - On April 5th, to Carolyn (née Dixon-Nuttall) and Mike, a son, Sebastian Jacob Lewis

HENDERSON - On 20th March 1999, to Olivia (née Bendon) and Ian, a son, Luke Nicholas and a daughter, Ilse Kerstin, a brother and sister for Harry.

HINDLEY - On Wednesday 31st March 1999, to Elizabeth (née Rashleigh) and Guy, a daughter, Madeleine Florence, a sister for Laura.

HUNT - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital to Mônica (née Bastos Santos) and Seán, a son, Thomas, a brother for Maria.

KILGALLON - On April 2nd at The Portland Hospital to Johnine and Patrick, a daughter, Ryan Kate.

KIMBERLEY - On 30th March at The Portland Hospital to Nicky and Gary, a son, Max, a brother to Flora.

LINDSAY - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital to Lucy (née Davenhill) and Ludovic, a son, Simon, a brother for Merlin.

McBAIN - On April 4th 1999 in Jeddah, to Susannah (née Benyon) and Neville, twin sons, Joseph George and Samuel William.

NAOUMOVITCH - On March 27th at The Portland Hospital to Sayra and Daniel, a daughter, Alexandra.

NEVRKLA - On March 31st at The Portland Hospital to Sara John and Frantisek Nevrkla, a son, Tomás, a brother for Sophie.

NITTA - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital to Kazuko (née Iwata) and Takeshi, a daughter, Haruka, a sister for Takumi.

NUGENT - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital to Nancy and Robert, a daughter, Mary Ellen Bail, a sister for Bo, Rhett and Beverly.

PARROTT - On March 24th at The Portland Hospital to Christine (née Kraus) and Timothy, a daughter, Brittany George.

PERRY - On March 28th at The Portland Hospital to Karen (née Jackson) and Ryan, a son, Oliver Joseph, a brother for Sophie.

PRICE - On March 31st at The Portland Hospital to Aloisa (née Batty) and Dominic, a daughter, Ottilie Cynthia Elizabeth, a sister for Halcyon and Horatio.

RIGNEY - On March 30th at The Portland Hospital to Kimberley and Damian, a daughter, Tara Ellen, a sister for Claudia.

RYALL - On Easter Sunday April 4th in Monza, Italy, to Hélène (née Mauriac) and Edward, a son, Oliver Mauriac, a welcome brother for Matthew and Louis.

SCHULL - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital to Anna Yang and Joseph Schull, a daughter, Lara Helene, a sister for James.

SHEE - On 6th April, to Stella (née Bowcock) and Charles, a daughter, Amelia Brenda Catherine, a sister for Harri, Edmund and Justin.

SKAILES - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital to Alex (née Howells) and Duncan, a son, Benedict Alexander, a brother for Toby and Oliver.

SPARREVOHN MØRCK - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital to Besma (Al Sidi) and Henrik, a son, Michael.

TRIMM - On 2nd April, to Tracy and David, a beautiful girl, Harriet Louise, sister to Emily.

THORNTON-ALLAN - On March 31st, to Lizzie (née Monckton) and Tim, the gift of a daughter Eleanor.

WAKE - On 4th April, to Katherine and Edward, a son, George.

WILLETTS - On March 27th, to Christine and Garry, a daughter, Samantha Jane, a sister for Douglas.

WINKLER VON STIERNHIELM - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital to Susan and Olof, a son, Sven Henrik Olofsson.

YANNAGHAS - On Thursday 1st April, to Dominica (née Ravenshear) and Anthony, a son, Henry Peter Anthony.

DEATHS

BARR-SIM - Andrew John, 2.7.1933 - 2nd April 1999. Peacefully at home after a courageous fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Evelyn Susan, dearly loved stepfather of Fiona and Alison, brother of Charles, and uncle of Andrew and Caroline. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Linton, Cambs. on Thursday April 15th at 2.30 pm. Donations if desired for Ward C9 Addenbrookes Hospital may be sent c/o H.J. Paintin Ltd., F.D., 43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB1 6HS. tel: 01223 891226.

BATEMAN - George William (Bill) of Perth, Western Australia, formerly of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire passed away on 1st April 1999. Dearly beloved husband of Regina, father of Michael, Karen and Nicholas, father-in-law of Marion and Annette, son of Mary and brother of Audrey. "A long illness patiently borne". No flowers, donations to Leukaemia Foundation of Australia, 725 Ann Fortitude Valley, Queensland.

BEWICKE - Juliet, on 1st April suddenly at home.

BULLEN - Peacefully on Easter Day Dr. John Bullen aged 86 years. Beloved husband of Margery for almost 60 years, dearly loved father of Anne and Vivienne, and grandfather of Rupert, Philippa and Simon. Private family cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service on Friday 9th April at 3 pm at St Mary's, Bampton, Oxford. No flowers please. Donations to British Red Cross c/o E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon. Tel: (01993) 842421.

BUTLER - Diana Frances MBE died on March 31st 1999 aged 77 at Rosemary Lodge Nursing Home, Wimbledon, peacefully after a long illness. Beloved sister and sister-in-law of John and Françoise Butler and friend of Betty Foster. She will be much missed by her nephews Piers and Richard and her nieces Sandy and Janet. There will be a service at St Mary the Virgin, Merton Park, London SW19 at 11 am followed by a cremation at Putney Vale at 12 noon on Monday 12th April 1999. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

CARNEGIE - Peacefully in Edinburgh on April 2nd 1999, James Forrest Carnegie, husband of the late Betty Thin and father of William, Mirren, Victoria and Magdalen. Private family cremation followed by a memorial service on Friday April 9th at 3 pm in the Chapel, Fettes College, Edinburgh (enter from East Fettes Avenue). All Forrest's friends are invited most warmly to the memorial service and to a reception afterwards. Family flowers only.

CHADWICK - Audrey Marion (née Abell) on Good Friday April 2nd 1999 in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Arthur Vivian and dear mother of Rodney (deceased), Jenny Koralek, Penny Eyre and Jonathan. She was also a much loved grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend to many both here and overseas. Service at Guildford Crematorium on Monday April 12th at 4pm.

COOPER - Mary Elisabeth (Lis) on 5th April 1999 peacefully at Aldbourne Nursing Home. Widow of Sir Charles, beloved Mother of Robin d'Abo, William and George. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Wonston, Sutton Scotney on Wednesday 14th April 1999 at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations for King Edward VII Hospital, London may be sent to Thomas Free & Sons Ltd., The Parade, Marlborough, Wilts. SN8 1NE. Tel: 01672 512110.

COTTERELL - Hazel (née Phillips) of Bournemouth on 31st March 1999 aged 72 after a short illness. Widow of Frederick Wynn Cotterell. Funeral Service at Bournemouth Crematorium at 1 pm on Monday 12th April. No flowers please. Donations to the British Heart Foundation. Enquiries to Tapper Funeral Service, tel: 01202 673164.

DAVIES-JENKINS - Michael, MA ARICS, late RWF, aged 63. Peacefully from cancer on Friday, 2nd April at Holme Tower Marie Curie Home, Penarth, after wonderful care. Adored husband of Sue and father of Katie, Ben and Will; loyal comrade and friend. Funeral 9th April at 2 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR. Thanksgiving Service 2nd July. He just wanted to fade away - and he managed it perfectly. Romans 14:8.

DIMOCK - Betty, suddenly on March 29th aged 84. Dearly loved mother of Sallyanne, and the late John, mother-in-law of Gail and grannie to Joanna, Sarah, Jamie, and Richard. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, but is reunited with Robert. Funeral Service to take place Friday 9th April 12.30 pm All Saints Church, Nazeing. Flowers or donations if preferred to R.S.P.B. c/o F.J. Pinnock & Son, 8 Sunnyside, Nazeing, Essex EN9 2RH.

ESPIR - Patricia, daughter of Mrs Yvonne and the late Teddy Smouha OBE, and beloved wife of Michael, mother of their four children James, Timothy, Rosalind and Marion, and grandmother of their twelve grandchildren, died peacefully at home on March 31st.

HARRISON - On April 3rd Tinka, wife of Tony, loving mother of Nick, Judy and Gillie, mother-in-law of Nigel, Susie and Peter, proud grandmother of Lucy, Piers, Claire, Jack, Harry and Indi. Service at Poole Crematorium on Tuesday April 13th at 4pm. Family flowers only but donations in her memory would be welcomed by either the Gurkha Museum or the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Enquiries to Mews Funeral Directors, 3 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole BH14 0EF.

HEAL - On 26th March, peacefully in Maidstone Hospital, Margaret Emily, aged 83. Funeral enquiries c/o A.W. Court Funeral Directors, tel: 01622 850840.

HEATH - Margaret Nina (née Jory) of Fairlee, Bournemouth, dearly loved wife of Gerry and much loved sister of Joan and John, died peacefully on 5th April 1999 at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital following a stroke, coming after many years of ill health, bravely and cheerfully borne. Cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium at 12 noon on Thursday, 15th April. Flowers and enquiries to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth (01202) 309609.

HOLMES - At Drumhead, Cardross, on 4th April 1999, Jack Holmes M.C. Architect. Funeral private.

HUGHES - Michael on April 2nd 1999 peacefully in hospital, beloved husband of the late Marcia and much loved father and grandfather. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday 14th April 12 noon at Holy Trinity Church, Penton Mewsey. Family flowers only.

IVANOVIC - Vane, retired Consul General of Monaco, died peacefully on April 4th. Cremation private. No flowers please.

KIRK - Neil MA Oxon, beloved son of Mrs Gwen Kirk and brother to Michael. Died suddenly at his home, Holmdale, Chelmsford Road, Felsted, Essex on 16th March 1999. Funeral at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 14th April at the Church of the Holy Cross, Felsted. Flowers or donations to Trinity Hospice, Clapham, to Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd., Haslers Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XS.

LANGDALE-KELHAM - Michael Anthony. Passed away suddenly on Saturday April 3rd, 1999 aged 72. Much loved husband of June; dearly missed by all his loving family and all who knew him. Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 4.30 pm on Thursday April 8th. Family flowers only and donations, if desired, to Parkinson's Disease Society c/o G. Boutell & Son, 50 High Road, Byfleet KT14 7OL. Tel: 01932 345037.

LIVENS - On April 1st, 1999, after a long illness, Robin George, very dear husband of Margaret, devoted father of Francis and Roger and father-in-law of Clare, much loved brother of Ursula. Funeral at St Thomas More Church, Wollaton, Nottingham on Thursday April 8th at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Bramcote. Family flowers only please. Donation, if wished, for Action Aid maybe sent to A.W. Lymn, Trent House, 106, Station Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2AY.

LOTT - On April 2nd 1999 peacefully in hospital Lawrence Charles Lott aged 76 years of Walcote, Leicestershire. The dearly loved husband of Darien and dear father of Adrian and Stephen. Private cremation followed by Memorial Service at Misterton Parish Church (near Lutterworth) on Friday April 9th at 3 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired for The Stroke Association (to whom cheques should be made payable). All further enquiries to Ginns & Gutteridge Funeral Directors of Leicester tel: 0116 2516117.

LUCAS - Michael Stewart, aged 51, dearly loved husband of Letitia and father of Stewart, Catherine, Charles and Antonia, dearly beloved son of Muriel died Monday 5th April in Dubai, funeral to be announced.

MILTON - Jennifer peacefully on April 1st. She leaves her family and friends with courage and love. Service at Gidleigh Church, Friday 9th April 3 pm. Any donations to Dr. T.A. Dudgeon, Moretonhampstead Hospital Appeal, Health Centre, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8LW.

PARSONS - Kenneth Charles CMG, OBE suddenly at home on 2nd April 1999, aged 78. Much loved husband of Mary and father of Judith and Suzanne. Cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey at 10.30 am on Monday 12th April. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Age Concern.

PATEY - Joan Howse died peacefully in her sleep at her home on April 1st in her 83rd year. She was the dearly loved wife of Barry and loving mother of Jenny and much loved granny of Vatché and Ben by whom she was affectionately known as Do-do. Cremation private. Memorial Service will be held at St Peter's Church, Tandridge on Tuesday April 13th at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations (if desired) to N.S.P.C.C. or R.S.P.C.A.

POLLARD - Jacquelyn (née Harris) on Good Friday aged 65 peacefully at home in Cornwall after a long illness. Much loved mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Donations in lieu of flowers to Sutton and Croydon MS Therapy Centre, The Mount, Lloyd Avenue, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3QS.

PRESTON - Ronald Douglas Hildebrand, 7th Baronet, on Easter Sunday after a short illness, dearly loved husband of Pauleen. Private cremation followed by service at Beeston St Lawrence Church at 2.30 pm on Monday 12th April. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1.

PULMAN-JONES - Peacefully on 1st April 1999 at Copperbeech Nursing Home, Uckfield, Barbara aged 89 years formerly of Bexhill on Sea. Wife of the late Hugh Pulman-Jones, and much loved mother of Annabelle, and Grandmother of Miles and Patrick. Funeral service to take place at Eastbourne Crematorium Family Chapel, on Wednesday 14th April 1999 at 11.15am. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Sussex Kidney Trust c/o Fuller & Scott, The Wakelyns, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AJ. Tel: 01825 763241.

RICHARDSON - George of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, on 3rd April 1999 aged 88. Dear husband of Ethel, loved father of Martin, David and Helen and a caring grandfather to his five grandchildren. Service at Wakefield Cathedral at 1.30 pm on Monday 12th April followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations to Dr Barnardos would be gratefully acknowledged by the family.

ROBINSON - William (Bill) Morecroft born in 1916, raised in Dundas, Ontario, Canada, lived in Cheshire 1944-1997, died in his sleep in Toronto, Canada, on Good Friday April 2nd 1999 and now reunited with his dear wife Monica Harvey Stewart Sey. Beloved father and best friend of Judith, Ian (Jennifer), Carol Anne and Giles. He will be sorely missed by his grandchildren: Tim, Steve, Sandy, Tanya, Dean, Kate and Ellie. Donations in Bill's memory may be made to St Dunstan's Association for the War Blinded, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

ROBLOU - (née Robinson) Christine Mary Ingeborg peacefully on April 2nd 1999 aged 56 years. She was loved dearly and will be missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service takes place at St Mary's Church, Crundale near Canterbury on Monday April 12th 1999 at 11.00 am followed by burial in the churchyard. Flowers (white only) to C W Lyons & Son Ltd, 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1ND.

ROUTLEDGE - John J., retired Chairman of N.E.D.A. Suddenly in Palm Springs California, on 20th March 1999, one day after his 72nd birthday. Dearly beloved husband of Barbara, much loved father of Paul and Glenn, and grandfather of Gemma and James. A cremation service was held in California and a memorial service in celebration of his life will be held at St Michael's Church, Rossington, Doncaster on Saturday 24th April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but any donations to The British Heart Foundation c/o Mr J.K. Robb M.B.E., 25 Oak Tree Road, Bawtry, Doncaster DN10 6LD. All enquiries to Barbara at 2 Oak Crest, Bawtry Road, Doncaster DN4 7PJ.

مكتبة الاهل

OBITUARIES

BEN WEINREB


Weinreb in his best bookroom in 1976. At the time he was perhaps the leading dealer in architectural books in the world

Ben Weinreb, antiquarian bookseller, died on April 3 aged 87. He was born on February 5, 1912.

In June 1956 a short, somewhat rotund, bearded man carrying a large Gladstone bag hurried into the office of the librarian of the Royal Institute of British Architects. It was Ben Weinreb, and in his bag were John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography*, the 1589 Barbaro *Perspettiva*, Rushs's *Seats in Essex*, a couple of first editions of T. S. Eliot's poems and a roll of papers which turned out to be Hawksmoor's drawings for one of the Evelyn family's houses and an exquisite design by Robert Adam for a chimneypiece.

Weinreb had been selling books for some time, and now, with the decline of the great architectural publishers and booksellers Batsford's (once a great rendezvous) and Tiranti, he sensed his opportunity. He was soon to outdo every bookseller in the world in the field of architectural books, drawings, manuscripts and allied subjects.

Benjamin Weinreb was born in Halifax. His mother died soon after his birth, and since his father was interned during the First World War as an enemy alien, he spent his early years at a nurses' training college before his father's second wife took him to live with her in a weaver's cottage. It was to her that he owed many of the tastes and instincts that brought him success. When the family moved to London, he was sent to Whitgift School, but he performed so spectacularly badly that the headmaster said that it was extremely unlikely that he would succeed in life.

His first job was in the theology department at Foyle's, but he was soon sacked for being late, and over the next few years eked out a living as an intermittent scriptwriter for documentary films, as an assistant stage carpenter, and by making sandals for the Regent's Park Theatre. Yet he was irresistibly drawn to books and increasingly supplemented his income as a book-runner, buying cheaply where he could and selling to established dealers.

In 1935 he took a job minding the bookshop devoted to poetry and left-wing politics at No 4 Parton Street (where he shared the attic floor with Dylan Thomas). He always had a leaning towards architecture, perhaps because he liked buildings and streetscapes, and perhaps also because he was dyslexic but responsive to splendid engravings. Slowly he acquired a stock of books on the subject, and in 1952 he began to make the change from book-runner to dealer, setting up a small storeroom in New Oxford Street.

John Betjeman became his first regular customer, though as Weinreb wrote, he "left behind far more than he took away, for, stimulated by the ebullient, graphic and revealing homilies which each succeeding purchase inspired, I began to look with ever-widening perception at buildings and the books about them".

In 1960, with the help of Eileen Harris and Paul Breman, who assembled a series of notes on his stock, Weinreb issued the first of 60 remarkable catalogues, which set a new standard of scholarly description and which remain an envied model.

Shortly afterwards he moved to a three-storey building at 39 Great Russell Street, where the business took off in earnest.

Although the timing was propitious, Weinreb was also fortunate to be succoured by two major collectors who boosted his rise to success: Paul Mellon (through his librarian, Willis Van Devanter) and Phyllis Lambert, who was determined to form one of the greatest architectural libraries in the world: her Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.

In 1968 Weinreb achieved the legendary feat of selling his entire stock to Texas University, after which he bought the huge corner building at 93 Great Russell Street and rapidly filled it up with ever more books. It had at least a dozen rooms and so many basement stores that even he lost track of some of them. The shop sold books from the cheapest to the most expensive, and there were also periodicals galore and boxes and drawers of drawings.

Dealers, collectors, librarians and historians came to browse and to buy, and to scoff his delicious sandwiches, quaff his good wine and — endlessly — to talk. Among the customers were Anthony Blunt, Claus von Bülow, Mark Millard, Phyllis Lambert and James Stirling (who was heard to complain that he never had an opportunity to look at books, because Weinreb always buttonholed him to discuss the latest trends in architecture).

Weinreb's expertise enabled him to spot many "sleepers" in the auction rooms. Most notably, in 1978, he identified the importance of a book estimated at £20-£40 in Sotheby's Signet library sale, and spent £10,500 on commission to acquire a very rare second edition of Ledoux's *Architecture* (1847).

By 1982, when he turned 70, Weinreb was so prominent in the world of architectural history that his birthday party was held at the Architectural Association, with Sir John Summerson giving the address. Weinreb's business was finally sold to Sotheran's in 1986 for well over £1 million.

He contributed a series of articles to *The Times* on all aspects of books and book collecting during the late 1970s and early 1980s, and took great pleasure in contributing to his son Matthew's photographic study *London Architecture: Features and Façades*. But the work for which he is best known is *The London Encyclopaedia*, which after many years' work reached fruition in 1983 with the help of Christopher Hibbert, and which remains in print.

Although he never considered himself a scholar-bookseller, Weinreb recognised the value of scholarly advice and often turned to architectural historians such as Howard Colvin in Oxford, Robin Middleton in Cambridge, and John Harris at the RIBA. His office became a nursery for a group of young bibliographers and bookmen, without whom he could never have produced his magisterial sequence of catalogues. Through that group of friends and employees, many of whom are now themselves leading antiquarian bookdealers, his high standards and precepts have benefited the whole of the trade.

Ben Weinreb married Kay Lazarus in 1939, but the marriage was later dissolved, after which he married Joan Kingdon-Rowe in 1957. He is survived by a daughter from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

DR PATRICK MOUNSEY

Dr Patrick Mounsey, Provost of the Welsh National School of Medicine, 1969-79, died on February 21 aged 85. He was born on February 1, 1914.

BEFORE Patrick Mounsey became a medical administrator, he was what is known as "a doctors' doctor", for his colleagues sought his opinion for themselves as well as for their patients. Courteous and softspoken, he always gave a well-thought-out judgment based as much on an understanding of human nature as on a sound knowledge of medicine. As a doctor he strove for standards which were so high as to be disconcerting, but his demands were usually softened with a dry but humorous comment, and he endeared himself to his staff by his loyalty and generosity.

He had a slightly unusual upbringing, as his parents were great friends and constant companions of the Christies of Glyndebourne. He played in the orchestra at Glyndebourne when still only 14; the association helped to inspire his lifelong interest in music.

John Patrick David Mounsey was educated at Eton, where he was Captain of the Oppidans; for the rest of his life he was always proud of being the first head of a house to introduce compulsory baths. After Eton he read classics at King's College, Cambridge, where he developed a keen interest in linguistics. He was an above-average artist and draughtsman and after Cambridge began training as an architect. However, on a visit to Paris he sat for too long on a sun-drenched balcony and developed severe heatstroke with cerebral complications. When he recovered he abandoned the idea of architecture, determined to become a doctor, and studied medicine at King's College Hospital, London.

Although he was a comparative latecomer to medicine, his rise in the profession was meteoric. He qualified in 1944 and was appointed Sherbrook Research Fellow at the London Hospital in 1951. At the hospital he was also doctor to the staff, and was as happy looking after the cleaners as the consultants. He became a lecturer at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith, in 1960, and senior lecturer and sub-dean in 1962. In 1967 he was appointed deputy director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, and in 1969 he became Provost of the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff.

The appointment of such a quintessential Englishman caused some surprise and even criticism. He nevertheless made a great success of the office and was soon engrossed in the medical and academic world in Wales, confounding his critics by even learning to speak Welsh. He took endless pains to achieve an accent which would be acceptable when he made official speeches in Welsh, as he frequently did.

Mounsey became a member of the Council of St David's University College, Lampeter, and was a member of the South Glamorgan Area Health Authority, as well as being the University of Wales's representative on the General Medical Council and serving on the General Dental Council. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Wales in 1980. While still a practising cardiologist, Mounsey wrote extensively on heart and lung disease and he later became assistant editor of the *British Heart Journal*.

He retired to Gloucestershire, where he was able to return to his early love of music as well as to painting and gardening, and to devote himself to his family.

He was married to Sally King, who predeceased him in 1990. He is survived by his son and daughter.

LUCILLE LORTEL

Lucille Lortel, theatrical producer, died in New York on April 4 aged 98. She was born on December 16, 1900.

Lortel (1989): helped to establish some of the greatest names in modern drama

TWO unrelated things earned Lucille Lortel the epithet "the Queen of Off-Broadway": a traditional husband and a shortage of oats. Her husband put a stop to her budding acting career when he demanded that she stay at home in the evenings. But the bored dutiful wife reinvented herself as a producer when a grain shortage on her country estate allowed her to convert the barn into a theatre.

Over the next fifty years, she helped some of the greatest names in modern theatre — including Edward Albee, David Mamet and Sam Shepard — to make it in the Off-Broadway theatre. Always in search of the new and experimental, she was interested not in staging the classics, but in supporting playwrights who were still searching for a voice and an audience. "Shakespeare is not a new writer — he does not need my help," she once said.

Born Lucille Wadler, she changed her name, after attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, to Lucille Lortel when her sister and a friend determined that actresses should have alliterative names. Lortel made her Broadway debut in 1925 in the Theatre Guild production of Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*, with the similarly alliterated Helen Hayes as Cleopatra and Lionel Atwill as Caesar.

She then worked steadily on the stage until her marriage in 1930 to the businessman Louis Schweitzer, a chemical engineer who made his fortune manufacturing cigarette papers. He objected to her absence in the evenings, and after finishing her run with Jean Arthur and Claude Rains in *The Man who Reclaimed his Head* in 1931, she retired from the stage and worked only during the days, on radio and in movie shorts.

In 1947 she resolved to turn the empty barn at her estate in Westport, Connecticut, into a theatre. She christened it the White Barn Theatre and declared that it would function without commercial pressure. From its first production — a play called *The Painted Wagon* — it became the focus of a new, non-traditional American theatre. Lortel encouraged young playwrights, actors and directors to bring their experimental works. Among the plays that had their premieres at the White Barn were Eugene Ionesco's *The Chairs*, Sean O'Casey's *Red Roses for Me* and Murray Schisgal's *The Typists*, and the actors who made their debuts at the White Barn included Peter Falk, Vincent Gardenia, George Peppard and Sidney Lumet.

In 1955, while Lortel was flourishing in her second incarnation as a producer, her husband was growing weary of the constant flow of actors and directors living on the estate. So as both a 24th wedding anniversary present and a compromise, he bought her the Theatre de Lys in New York's Greenwich Village.

In New York, Lortel continue to use her connections and her husband's financial resources to produce plays that were not commercially attractive to Broadway. But despite this policy, her first production, Brecht and Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*, ran for seven years, and put Off-Broadway on the map.

The success was gratifying, but the long run frustrated her ambition to mount several productions each year, so in 1956 she began a series of matinée readings, giving actors opportunities to develop their talent. These readings series ran for 20 years and attracted many of the most serious actors of the day. A verse adaptation of Alan Paton's novel *Cry the Beloved Country* was the first to be staged, followed by readings of poetry by Robert Frost, Archibald MacLeish and W. H. Auden, and plays by O'Casey, Tennessee Williams, Albee and William Inge. When Richard Burton was performing *Camelot* on Broadway at night, he appeared at Lortel's theatre during the day to read Dylan Thomas's poetry.

Lortel was always hungry for new talent, and travelled to Europe regularly to scout for it. She once said in an interview that the influence of George Devine and the Royal Court was very powerful, and they inspired her to bring that spirit to Off-Broadway.

In the 1950s and 1960s Lortel was indefatigable in her efforts to mount new plays and expose American audiences to fresh faces and voices. She also made a point of working with blacklisted actors. In all she produced 500 plays at her theatre, including Jean Genet's *The Balcony*, David Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre*, Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* and Wendy Wasserstein's *Isn't It Romantic*.

In her honour, the building was renamed the Lucille Lortel Theatre in 1981. In her last two decades she continued to tackle difficult, non-commercial and provocative themes, including Aids in Larry Kramer's *Destiny of Me*, and apartheid in *Blood Knot* by Athol Fugard.

Lortel once said she had no hobbies beyond theatre production. She was a generous donor to theatrical institutions, including Yale Repertory Theatre, and in 1996 she established the Lucille Lortel fellowship for playwrights. She received virtually every award in the theatre except a Tony Award, which is given for plays produced on Broadway. She was the recipient of the Lee Strasberg Lifetime Achievement Award, and was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 1990.

Louis Schweitzer died in 1971. There were no children of the marriage.

ON THIS DAY

April 7, 1937

In this Tyrone Guthrie production Olivier led a strong cast that included Harcourt Williams, Jessica Tandy, Ivy St Helier, Alec Guinness, Stephen Murray and Leo Genn.

OLD VIC HENRY V

A friendly rivalry exists between the Old Vic and Stratford, and *Henry V*, now to be seen on both these stages, invites a general comparison. The methods of approach of Mr. Tyrone Guthrie and Mr. Iden Payne, the two producers, are very different.

To brilliancy of colour Mr. Iden Payne adds a consistent solidity of definition. A ship, a castle, a throne room — these on the Stratford stage have value not merely because they create atmosphere but because they are so pleasingly themselves; and the effect is that of turning the pages of a child's picture book which has some pretensions to archaeological accuracy.

Mr. Tyrone Guthrie, whose scenery and costumes are designed by Motley, also seeks the equivalent in colour of a trumpet call. The stage of the Old Vic glows with colour from emblazoned shields and surcoats richly embroidered and from banners which fall forward and fold themselves into tents for the camp scenes, but this polychromatic splendour is set off not by realistically painted vistas but by a simple arrangement of curtains. The appeal is to a more adult aestheticism.

The performance as a whole moves with a firmer tread than its country counterpart, and the Henry of Mr. Laurence Olivier moves firmly with it. We find it comparatively easy to overlook the ugly side of the warrior king and to delight in him as the heroic inspirer of a small army which fights and routs another five times its size. Mr. Olivier suggests fortitude and similar undramatic virtues which, because control is of their essence, are by no means easy to represent on the stage. With a minimum of heroic gestures and a clear avoidance of rant, he contrives steadily to impress the mind with the image of a heroic character. The preliminary episode of the tennis balls is given a rare vibrant quality, and here the hard-bitten Archbishop of the resourceful Mr. Harcourt Williams is an enormous help.

Mr. Olivier is also especially effective in his handling of the aristocratic traitors and in defending himself from the criticisms of that incorrigible grouser, Williams; nor does he fail when forced to stand and deliver up his rhetoric at the breach of Harfleur and on the morning of St. Crispin's day. It is a finely judged performance. Miss Jessica Tandy and Miss Ivy St. Helier, borne on a litter for the French lesson, live daintily up to their silken splendour.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

SUTTON - On April 1st, after a long illness faced with dignity and courage, Aileen, beloved wife of the late Anthony, dearest mother of Anthea and much loved Ba to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Ilford on Thursday April 15th at 2.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Andrew's Church Fund c/o Gilderson & Sons, 612 High Road, Seven Kings, Essex.

USHER - Kenn, beloved husband of the late Lian, father to Lindsey, father-in-law to Colin, died peacefully on April 4th 1999 at White Gates Nursing Home, Surrey, after a long illness. The cremation will be at Slough Crematorium, Stoke Poges Road, Slough on Thursday 8th April 1999 at 4.30 pm, followed by refreshments at the Grenadier Guards Club, Windsor. It was my father's request that no one wears black. Flowers and donations to F. Smith & Sons, 12 Richmond Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AB - cheques to Mrs L. Sleep on behalf of a school for blind & handicapped children.

WEINREB - Ben. Died peacefully on 3rd April 1999 aged 87. Much loved father of Lindy, Matthew and Deborah and loving grandfather.

WILSON - Dr Leslie Andrew Wilson MA, MD, FRCP (Retired Senior Consultant Geriatrician for Aberdeen and the North East, Scotland) at Hawkhill House, Milltimber, Aberdeen on Monday April 5th 1999. Aged 81 years, beloved husband of the late Helen Marshall Wilson, father of David, Dorothy and Douglas and grandfather of Chloé, Joanna and Colin. Service in Aberdeen Crematorium Hazlehead (West Chapel) on Friday April 9th at 3.35pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GARNIER - A Memorial Service for Major Edward Hethersett Charles Garnier M.C. will take place at SS Peter and Paul Church, Shropham, Norfolk, on Saturday May 8th 1999 at 2.30 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BOYLE - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Charles Leofric Boyle will be held on Sunday 18th April at 3 pm at St Saviour's Church, Eton Road, London NW3.

REES - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Squadron Leader Jamie Rees A.F.C. will take place at St Mary's Church, Preston Candover, on Saturday, 17th April, at 11am.

STUTFIELD - (Lowry). Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Helen to be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden on Friday 30th April at 2.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARKER - Nicholas, Royal Navy, died two years ago today. Forever in my thoughts and prayers. J.B.

LAUGHLAN - In memory of Hazel, beloved wife of Bill. April 2 1958 to April 7 1996. Always loved and always missed.

LILEY - Died April 7th 1996. Remembering Derek with much love by his wife Barbara and family.

VOADEN - Graham Keith April 7th 1992. Loved and Remembered with Laughter Forever.

WATSON - Arthur John. Remembered with great love and pride by his family on this his birthday.

MARRIAGES

BOWMAN:DARLEY - The marriage took place on Saturday 3rd April 1999 in Egham, Surrey, between Justin Christopher, elder son of Mr & Mrs R. Bowman of Frimley, Surrey and Clare Louise, only daughter of Mr & Mrs C.D. Darley of Oxton, Wirral.

THE TIMES TODAY

BALKANS WAR

Nato rejects Serb ceasefire offer

■ An offer from Belgrade to begin a unilateral ceasefire in Kosovo from 7pm last night was rejected out of hand by Nato leaders, who claimed it was merely a ploy to stop the airstrikes. The announcement of a ceasefire came after a day in which Nato aircraft carried out the largest number of bombing sorties so far in the campaign..................................Reports, pages 1-6

Serb actions 'evil'

War crimes and genocide are being committed in Kosovo on a massive scale as Serbs systematically kill or force out the Kosovan Albanians, according to a graphic account by America's special ambassador on war crimes...Page 2

Firepower boost

The American decision to deploy the Gulf War-proven Multiple Launch Rocket System to strike at Yugoslav military facilities will significantly increase the firepower available to Nato commanders. It was one of the weapons that caused such destruction in the Gulf War....................Page 3

KLA appeals for aid

The Kosovo Liberation Army launched a desperate appeal for military aid to defend up to half a million ethnic Albanians in villages the guerrillas still hold against the Serb onslaught, and vowed to become "Nato's ground troops" in the Balkan campaign...Page 4

Nato bombs kill 12

Dragan Miladinovic earned little, but had won the respect of all who knew him. On Monday night the 67-year-old was killed by Nato, with his wife and daughter, as his neighbourhood was flattened by what Brussels calls precision bombing............................Page 6

NEWS

Suspects hear toll of bomb victims

■ One by one, all 270 names of the Lockerbie bomb victims were read out to the two Libyans suspected of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103. On their first full day in Scottish custody, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimehok sat for two hours as Dumfries and Galloway police read out the detailed warrant outlining the charges against them.......Page 10

Bard means business

Cranfield University School of Management in Bedfordshire has teamed up with the Globe Theatre in Southwark to offer courses on what Shakespeare can teach today's high-powered corporate executives..................Page 9

'Phone neck' a pain

Office workers who spend hours hunched over the telephone and tapping at a computer are putting themselves at risk of more than a pain in the neck. A condition christened "phone neck" can cause problems in the spine, arms and hands..............................Page 13

Scots go into battle

The campaign for Scotland's first parliament in 300 years began with Labour accusing nationalists of downgrading plans for independence. The Scottish Labour leader Donald Dewar accused the Scottish National Party of dishonesty over plans for an independence referendum......Page 12

New guide to nannies

Parents should employ people to look after their children only if they agree not to smack them, the Government advised. The first official guide on employing a nanny effectively outlaws physical punishment of children by people acting *in loco parentis*....Page 14

Aussie prawn bigger than the barbie

■ Throwing a prawn on a barbie will never be quite the same again. A giant crustacean previously unknown to science is about to make its debut on the Australian menu. It's emerged from Sydney Harbour and dates back to the Jurassic era. It looks like a cross between a lobster, a prawn and a praying mantis and grows to between 8in and 16in....................Page 8

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Buckingham Palace will take on a Caribbean feel next Monday and Thursday when a detachment of the Jamaican Defence Force moves in to mount guard. The 120-strong Jamaican contingent is in Britain as part of an exchange programme with the Coldstream Guards

BUSINESS

Shares surge: The stock market hit a record high while the pound slid to an 18-month low against the dollar on renewed hopes that the Bank of England will again cut interest rates tomorrow..................Page 23

Mobile boom: The number of mobile phone users jumped dramatically over the last year and is set to keep booming throughout 1999, according to new figures...Page 23

Tie Rack: Tie Rack is leaving the stock market, with one of its main suppliers, Frangi, paying just 43½p a share for a company that floated at 145p a share in 1987.......Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 85.30 points to 6415.3. The pound fell 1.52 cents to $1.5898 and 0.32p against the euro to 67.89p. The sterling index fell to 101.7.........Page 26

SPORT

Football: Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool striker, has been charged with misconduct by the FA for pretending to sniff cocaine after scoring a goal in the Merseyside derby against Everton..................Page 44

Rugby union: Graham Henry, the Wales coach, named an unchanged side but England's Clive Woodward must await fitness reports settling on his line-up........Page 38

Golf: The Masters this week will be the last major championship that Earl Woods, Tiger's father and mentor, will be able to attend for some time..........................Page 42

Simon Barnes: "I fear Robbie Fowler has fallen into the clutches of the humourless. Moral: don't make jokes. Ever. The humourless always win"...........................Page 41

ARTS

Perfectly Candide: As the National Theatre prepares for the opening of *Candide*, the lyricist Stephen Sondheim explains the history behind his long association with Bernstein's musical...................Page 32

Rising star: At 16, the actor Raymond Pickard has scored quite a double: he plays Robson Green's son in a TV drama, and is making his stage debut in *Kes*........Page 32

Dizzy ride: In East London the Turner Prize winner Douglas Gordon unveils his latest installation, an apt homage to Hitchcock's movie classic *Vertigo*...............Page 33

Movie murder: In the wake of a recent Supreme Court ruling, there are signs that Hollywood is getting nervous about portraying gruesome crimes on screen.......Page 34

FEATURES

Hidden world: Autism is believed to be a mild form of brain damage. Now the world inhabited by those with autism is being explored with imaging equipment to see how the brain functions..................Page 16

Kidnapped: In the second extract from his book, Chris Moon tells of his encounter with the Khmer Rouge...............................Page 17

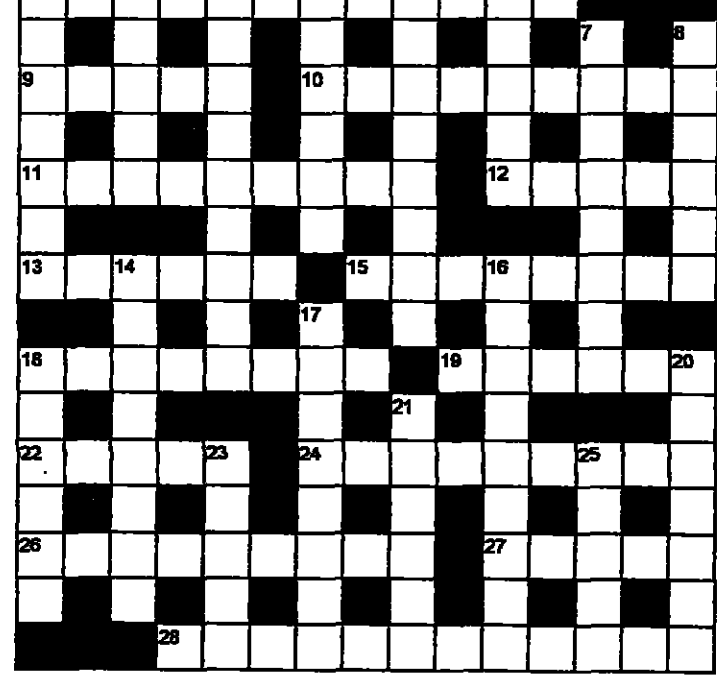
Top tips: Make the best of your savings; why the lottery is a waste of money; credit agencies.......Page 15

Snacks: We know you hoard food in your office drawer. So which snacks are the best?............Page 31

On the move: Why the smart money is moving into historic Bermondsey in inner London...........Page 35

Earlier this year Kofi Annan, with American approval, assured Colonel Gaddafi that only the two suspects, not the Libyan Government, would be put on trial. But Mr Annan's assurance should not preclude questioning about who might have ordered the suspects to carry out the bombing. There remain many unanswered questions about the Lockerbie case, including whether Syria or Iran may also have played a role.

The New York Times



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
John Travolta plays a lawyer who takes on corporate giants in writer-director Steve Zaillian's true drama

■ **BOOKS**
Erica Wagner is entranced by a graceful, gentle novel that does not shy from the truth

RADIO & TV

Preview: New six-part drama series set in the aftermath of a huge asteroid collision that destroys human civilisation. *The Last Train* (ITV, 9.45pm) **Review:** Charles Lane's preaching of "Four legs good, two legs better" comes as a shock to Joe Joseph....Pages 42, 43

OPINION

The final test

At a time when Europe's capacity for unity and leadership has been so tragically questioned in the Balkans, it may seem troubling to discuss the issue of whether the single currency will create a political federation in Europe..................Page 19

Serbs bearing gifts

Mr Milosevic's aim over the next few days will be to spread division among Nato nations, not to reconcile Kosovo with Serbia.....Page 19

Chalk and cheese

The NUT executive would, it seems, prefer equality of poverty to differential affluence..........Page 19

COLUMNS

ANDREW ROBERTS

If Mr Salmond is accurately articulating what the opinions of his people might be in a few years' time about this latest adventure, sharing an opinion of the war that stretches across the political kaleidoscope ... then Mr Cook's smears will prove as myopic as they are historically illiterate..............................Page 18

JAMES PETTIFER

The West has fêted Skopje's ruler, President Gligorov, as a moderate. Its support for his attempts to achieve "stability" have acted as a quiet way of helping Serbia ... But there has been a high price to pay in civil liberties..................Page 18

ALAN COREN

From Land's End to John o'Groat's, millions of hopeful couples are pursuing love's young dream of a big house on Easy Street with sponsors winding round the door....................Page 18

OBITUARIES

Ben Weinreb, antiquarian bookseller; **Lucille Lortel**, theatre producer; **Dr Patrick Mounsey**, physician...........................Page 21

LETTERS

Kosovo; child's right to British nationality; business polls on single currency; speed traps; manufacturing industry's apathy; irritating software; landfill tax; free access to galleries; rites of spring.....Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,071

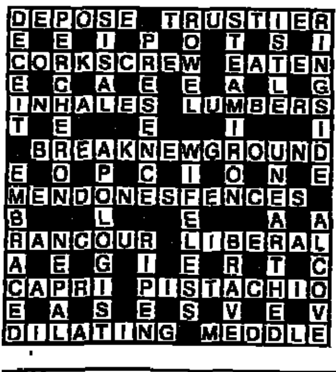
ACROSS

1 A suitable sucker? (7,5).
9 Levels up the odds (5).
10 Rising note in dance music by celebrity (9).
11 Departs to lead union in time-wasting activity (9).
12 Brush a fur coat (5).
13 Cover up as new organisation takes blame (6).
15 Atmosphere, in certain situations, calms down (8).
18 Lines roughly measured? (8).
19 Made to smile by a thought (6).
22 Elephant's tail, something like the trunk (5).
24 Dog cart ordered for Croesus (9).
26 To study a French instrument can be a problem (9).
27 Athenian doctor's in the money (5).
28 Shown by one looking for scraps? (12).

DOWN

1 Downtrodden machine-worker (7).
2 Standard to aim at in croupier's profession? (5).
3 Stubborn stain to be treated (9).
4 Bound to get three months – or release from prison (6).
5 It gets held up when the weather's bad (8).
6 A man seen in the distance (5).
7 Expires, broken by a wager, and illness (8).
8 High spirits? (6).
14 Pay-phone gambling (8).
16 Job wasn't made any easier by advice from this dummy (9).
17 Agency worker, said to be non-religious (8).
18 The cad is out to break the engagement (6).
20 How to get rid of poor relations? (7).
21 Head girl is a mace-bearer (6).
23 Cat required? There are quite a few in the pound (5).
25 Type of French novel (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,070



Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

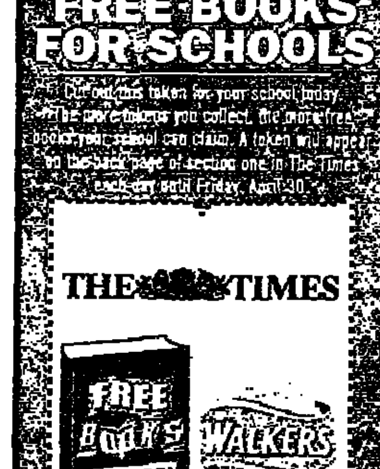


Sun rises: 6.23 am — Sun sets: 7.42 pm

Moon sets: 10.04 am — Moon rises: 1.16 am

Last quarter April 9

London 7.42 pm to 6.21 am
Bristol 7.53 pm to 6.31 am
Edinburgh 8.02 pm to 6.27 am
Manchester 7.54 pm to 6.27 am
Penzance 8.03 pm to 6.45 am



FORECAST

☐ **General:** Scotland will have a bright and breezy morning with a few scattered sharp showers, dying away. Rain in west by dusk. Much of England and Wales will be dry with some sunny spells.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S England, Channel Isles:** showers clearing to leave a mostly dry afternoon with sunny spells. Moderate NW wind. Max 12-15C (54-59F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N & NE England:** morning showers may linger towards coasts but elsewhere a dry afternoon with some sunshine. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 12-15C (54-59F).

☐ **SW England, Wales:** mainly dry with sunny spells but becoming cloudy by evening. Moderate NW wind. Max 11-14C (52-57F).

☐ **W Midlands, NW England, Isle of Man, Lake District:** early showers will clear to give dry day with sunny spells. Moderate NW wind. Max 11-14C (52-57F).

☐ **Borders, Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** some early showers but becoming dry with sunny spells. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland:** dry for much of day with some spells of sun but clouding over with rain by dusk. Moderate NW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **N Ireland:** dry start, becoming cloudy with rain. Moderate NW wind will back W and decrease light. Max 11-14C (52-57F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** bright intervals, showers. Wind fresh or strong SW. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Outlook:** mild but cloudy. Rain in north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	1.5	0.17	13	55	r	Lerwick	-	0.08	10	50	r
Anglesey	4.0	0.06	12	54	sh	Leuchars	2.5	0.19	13	55	sh
Aspatria	3.5	0.50	13	55	sh	Littlehampton	4.4	0.01	15	59	s
Aviemore	0.3	0.65	10	50	r	London	4.0	0.01	18	64	b
Belfast	2.3	0.32	14	57	sh	Lowestoft	4.0	0.01	17	63	s
Birmingham	3.4	0.03	15	59	sh	Manchester	5.8	0.02	15	59	sh
Bognor R	4.8	0.01	15	59	s	Margate	4.0	0.02	17	63	r
Bournemth	5.3	0.05	15	59	s	Morecambe	6.1	0.21	13	55	s
Bristol	5.4	0.31	14	57	s	Newcastle	7.5	0.01	15	59	s
Buxton	6.1	0.07	12	54	s	Newquay	3.2	0.13	13	55	b
Cardiff	5.6	0.11	14	57	sh	Norwich	4.3	0.01	17	63	s
Clacton	4.8	0.01	16	61	s	Oxford	4.1	0.02	15	59	sh
Cleethorpes	5.4	-	17	63	c	Penzance	6.0	0.13	14	57	s
Cromer	4.2	-	17	63	s	Poole	4.0	0.04	18	64	d
Eastbourne	2.1	0.04	12	54	r	Prestatyn	6.4	0.06	17	63	sh
Edinburgh	2.0	0.07	13	55	sh	Ross on Wye	4.6	0.02	15	59	s
Eskdalemuir	0.1	1.13	10	50	sh	Saunton Sands	2.9	0.05	13	55	s
Exmouth	4.7	0.03	16	61	s	Scarborough	7.5	0.01	14	57	s
Fishguard	3.3	0.02	12	54	sh	Shrewsbury	4.6	0.01	14	57	sh
Folkestone	2.8	0.02	13	55	r	Southend	4.1	-	15	59	b
Glasgow	-	0.37	12	54	sh	Southport	X	0.01	X	X	sh
Hastings	2.9	0.05	13	55	r	Southsea	5.5	0.01	15	59	r
Hayling I.	5.2	0.01	14	57	r	Stornoway	1.2	0.15	11	52	sh
Herne Bay	3.0	-	19	66	b	Swanage	5.5	0.05	14	57	sh
Hove	3.7	0.04	12	54	sh	Teignmouth	5.6	0.04	16	61	b
Hunstanton	3.6	-	15	59	b	Tenby	1.0	0.04	13	55	c
Isle of Man	6.3	0.08	13	55	s	Tiree	3.0	0.52	12	54	d
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	13	55	b	Torquay	6.1	0.02	17	63	s
Kinloss	0.1	0.94	11	52	r	Weymouth	5.8	0.04	13	55	s
Leeds	8.0	0.01	15	59	s						

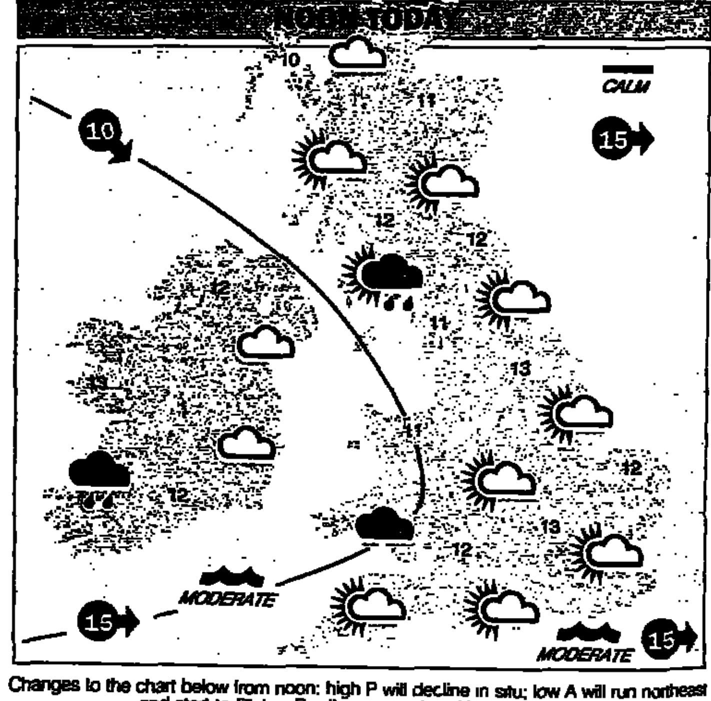
Extremes — highest day temp: Herne Bay, Kent, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway; Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, 10C (50F). highest rain: Eskdalemuir, 1.13in; highest sun: Leeds, 8hr.

ABROAD

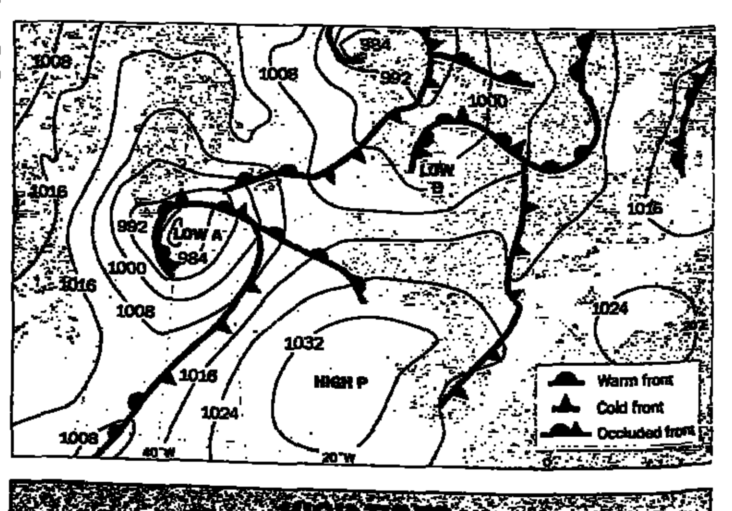
Ajaccio	16	61	f	Cologne	21	70	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	18	64	s
Akrotiri	18	64	f	C'phagn	15	59	s	Majorca	19	66	f	Salzburg	15	59	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Corfu	15	59	h	Malaga	21	70	s	S Frisco	14	57	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Dublin	12	54	c	Malta	19	66	s	Santiago	19	66	f
Amst'dm	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melbourne	16	61	c	S Paulo	X		
Athens	17	63	f	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	13	55	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Florence	17	63	s	Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Frankfurt	19	66	s	Milan	20	68	s	Stockholm	12	54	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	7	45	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	17	63	f	Moscow	13	55	s	Sydney	19	66	r
Beijing	16	61	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	16	61	s	Tangier	18	64	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	5	41	r	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	20	68	f
Belgrade	14	57	f	Hong K	29	84	c	Naples	17	63	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	18	64	s	Innsbruck	17	63	s	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tokyo	21	70	f
Bermuda	21	70	s	Istanbul	13	55	f	N York	14	57	f	Toronto	5	41	c
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	16	61	f	Tunis	20	68	f
Bordeaux	20	68	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	7	45	f	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	17	63	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Budapest	13	55	c	Le Touqt	13	56	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	16	61	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Lisbon	18	64	f	Prague	15	59	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cairo	23	73	f	Locarno	18	64	f	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Warsaw	16	61	s
Cape Tn	X			L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	22	72	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxembg	16	61	s	Rio de J	29	84	s	Wel'ngton	20	68	X
Ch'church	21	70	X	Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	37	99	s	Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time Monday X = not available

WEATHER TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high P will decline in situ; low A will run northeast and start to fill; low B will move east and lose its identity



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:54	3.6	17:24	3.5	Liverpool	2:30	8.2	14:48	7.9
Avonmouth	10:27	11.0	22:41	10.8	London Bridge	5:23	6.5	17:38	6.5
Belfast	2:34	3.1	15:06	3.1	Lowestoft	1:02	2.2	13:14	2.2
Cardiff	10:13	10.2	22:27	9.9	Margate	3:24	4.3	15:41	4.3
Devonport	9:12	4.8	21:30	4.7	Milford Haven	9:39	5.7	21:58	[illegible]
Dover	2:09	5.9	14:30	5.8	Newquay	8:34	5.8	20:54	[illegible]
Dublin	3:12	3.5	15:53	3.4	Oban	8:56	3.2	21:32	[illegible]
Falmouth	8:43	4.6	21:01	4.5	Penzance	7:59	4.6	20:23	[illegible]
Greenock	3:57	3.0	16:04	2.9	Portland	10:02	1.4	22:07	1.5
Harwich	3:09	3.5	15:25	3.4	Portsmouth	2:36	4.1	15:00	[illegible]
Holyhead	1:42	4.9	14:03	4.6	Shoreham	2:19	5.4	14:34	[illegible]
Hull (Albert D)	9:44	7.7	22:09	7.4	Southampton	2:16	4.0	14:42	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	9:18	7.7	21:36	7.4	Swansea	9:44	10.7	22:08	[illegible]
King's Lynn	9:44	5.6	22:04	5.3	Tees	7:23	9.3	19:52	[illegible]
Leith	6:21	4.7	18:49	4.6	Walton-On-Naze	3:06	3.8	15:20	[illegible]

All times GMT Heights in metres

Brendel plays Beethoven
Arts, page 34

BUSINESS • ARTS • HOMES • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1999

2

Sondheim rewrites Candide
Arts, page 32

Rate cut speculation spurs European stocks but weakens sterling

Shares surge to record high

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE London stock market yesterday hit a record high while the pound slid to an 18-month low against the dollar on renewed hopes that the Bank of England will again cut interest rates tomorrow.

Other European markets also made strong gains on speculation that the European Central Bank may cut Euro-pean rates while the euro rebounded against the pound and the dollar after Yugoslavia unexpectedly announced a unilateral ceasefire in Kosovo.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 85.8 points at 6,415.8 on the first day of the new financial year, having earlier posted an all-time trading high of 6,443.9.

The market was also bolstered by a flood of fresh money as investors rushed to meet the final deadline for Peps and a strong rise on Wall Street while European markets were shut for the Easter Monday holiday. However, later gains were limited by a poor start on Wall Street yesterday with the Dow Jones industrial average standing about 50 points lower — back below the 10,000 level — by lunchtime in New York.

Other European markets also played catch-up with Wall Street, with Frankfurt shares climbing 2.6 per cent, while Paris shares closed up 1.76 per cent.

Expectations of an ECB rate cut after its meeting tomorrow were tempered, however, by hawkish comments from Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France. M Trichet gave warning that the euro was falling towards a level where the ECB may be required to "demonstrate its vigilance", adding that he saw no "change in tone" to the ECB's policy stance.

The euro, however, made sharp gains in later trading as traders greeted the news of the Yugoslav ceasefire as positive for the embattled currency. The euro climbed more than a cent from its lows against the dollar to trade at $1.0840. Against the pound, the euro jumped from 67.37p to 68.10p.

Sterling also fell sharply against the dollar slipping more than a cent and a half to $1.5898 — its lowest level since September 1997. Traders said that expectations of further UK rate cuts and the possibility that US rates may rise is helping to depress the pound against the dollar.

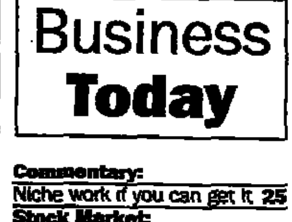
However, economists emphasised that the MPC meeting, which begins today, could still prove close run with recent surveys suggesting that the economic growth rate is beginning to pick up again.

Three surveys published yesterday added to the impression that the economy is at a turning point with business confidence sharply improving. The Confederation of British Industry consumer, business and professional services survey reported a rapid improvement in sentiment with companies confident of a return to robust growth in the second half of the year.

A separate Institute of Management business confidence survey also showed a sharp upturn in confidence while business enthusiasm for further interest rate cuts is waning, although a clear majority still wants rates to fall further. The breakdown of the data, however, confirmed that the economy is still operating at "two speeds" with manufacturing confidence still below its long-term average.

The BDO business trends index also rose for the third consecutive month suggesting that the economy is slowly returning to growth. The survey which uses a "poll of polls" approach, however, is still pointing to sub-trend growth across the year and suggests that there are no immediate signs of rising inflation.

Stock market, page 26



Business Today



Mobile phones
City reserves judgment on pre-pay frenzy
page 27

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6415.3	(+85.3)
Yield	n/a	
FTSE All Share	2938.28	(+32.06)
Nikkei	16479.71	(+144.93)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9965.99	(-41.34)*
S&P Composite	1317.59	(-3.53)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	[illegible]
Long bond	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yield	5.53%*	(5.68%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.95	(116.98)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5917*	(1.6025)
London:		
$	1.5899	(1.6050)
€	1.4773	(1.4845)
SFr	2.3582	(2.3697)
Yen	192.47	(191.84)
£ Index	101.7	(102.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0841*	(1.0795)
SFr	1.4723*	(1.4800)
Yen	120.75*	(120.77)
$ index	109.0	(108.4)

Tokyo close Yen 121.03

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$15.05	($14.65)

GOLD

London close	$279.05	($280.60)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ..... Page 24

Huge sales rise boosts mobile phone firms

BY CHRIS AYRES

NEARLY 1.9 million Britons bought mobile phones over the past three months, according to figures out yesterday, with some analysts estimating that more than a quarter of the country's population now use wire-free telephone services.

The figures follow the mobile phone industry's busiest ever Christmas trading period, during which Britain's big four network operators — Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange, and One2One — attracted a total of 3 million new customers.

Yesterday's figures did not overshoot City expectations, but analysts said that they provided fresh evidence of the success of so-called pre-pay mobile phones. Shares of Vodafone and Orange both made significant gains, while shares of BT and Cable & Wireless, which hold large stakes in Cellnet and One2One respectively, also rose.

Pre-pay mobile phones are typically priced at £69.99 and allow customers to pay for calls in advance. All Britain's mobile phone operators now offer pre-pay phones, which can be bought from retailers such as Tesco and Boots, as well as specialist outlets.

However, one of Britain's largest mobile phone retail chains, the PocketPhone Shop, yesterday gave warning that lower-paying pre-pay phone customers are replacing the mobile operators' higher-worth consumers. The retailer also said that many consumers are being "mis-sold" pre-pay phones, which do not offer them best value for money.

Both the City and mobile phone companies, however, shrugged off these concerns, with analysts reacting most positively to Cellnet's first-quarter figures, which showed that it attracted 479,000 net new customers during the period — a 444 per cent increase on the same quarter of 1998.

Cellnet, however, remained second to Vodafone, which attracted 700,000 net new customers in the UK during the period, and 1.3 million new customers around the world. Vodafone, which is orchestrating a £67 billion merger with America's AirTouch, now has more than 10.4 million customers worldwide.

Orange remained in third place according to yesterday's figures, attracting 370,000 net new customers during the first quarter of this year. Trailing behind Orange was One2One, which is expected to be either floated or sold by its current owners, Cable & Wireless of the UK, and MediaOne of the US. One2One attracted 329,000 new customers during the first quarter, giving it a total of 2.25 million customers.

mobile frenzy, page 27



CHRIS HARRIS

Fashion move: Tie Rack, the tie and scarf retailer that was founded and floated during the Eighties high street boom, is to be sold to one of its main Italian suppliers for £22.6 million, just a fifth of its stock market valuation of two years ago (Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent, writes).

Frangi, a producer of silk ties and scarves that is based on Lake Como in northern Italy, is offering 43½p a share. Tie Rack's directors and its main shareholder Vadep, part of the HSBC banking group, have agreed to sell a total of 42.6 per cent of the group.

Roy Bishko, the founder and chairman who took the company to the market in 1987, is remaining as co-chairman alongside Simone Frangi, above, currently international director of his family's firm. Tie Rack non-executive directors Gillian Oakes and David Spitz, who will be remaining with the company, said in a statement: "The company is going through a difficult period and we believe this cash offer represents good value for shareholders after taking into consideration the downside risks and the time it will take to achieve an acceptable level of profitability." Tie Rack bows out, page 24

Telewest shares lifted by CWC talk

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of Telewest, the cable operator, shot up nearly 7 per cent to a high of 296¼p yesterday after growing speculation that it is close to doing a deal with Cable & Wireless, the international telecoms group.

The 19p rise at Telewest was a reaction to speculation that C&W is considering a plan to merge the residential side of its majority-owned UK cable business — Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) — with Telewest. Under the plan it is speculated that C&W would then absorb the corporate operations of CWC and that CWC would be taken private.

CWC and Telewest confirmed yesterday that preliminary discussions were being held between them "and certain of their major shareholders concerning various corporate options, which may include, among other things, the transfer of various businesses of CWC and Telewest".

Monument Oil talks with several suitors

MONUMENT OIL & GAS, the exploration company in which the former Tory Energy Minister Tim Eggar is chief executive, is in discussions with several oil companies, including Enterprise Oil and Lasmo, which could lead to a takeover (Carl Mortished writes).

The company, which owns extensive exploration acreage in Turkmenistan as well as a 20 per cent share in the Liverpool Bay field, said that it had been approached by a number of parties but had not received a firm proposal.

Tony Craven Walker, chairman and a principal shareholder of Monument, said the company was looking at various options including asset deals as well as acquisitions. "Those talks may or may not lead to a transaction," he said.

The talks stem from Mr Craven Walker's belief that the company needs scale to exploit its three core assets: oil and gas production in Liverpool Bay and exploration prospects in Turkmenistan and Algeria. Last month he opened the door to merger talks by saying the company was keen to participate in the consolidation that has swept across the industry, most recently with the proposed BP Amoco takeover of Arco.

Prescott appoints rail franchising director

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, will today appoint an executive from within the industry to shake up the railways (Arthur Leathley writes).

Mike Grant, deputy director of property at Railtrack, is to be appointed the new rail franchising director, renewing a working relationship with Sir Alastair Morton, his former boss at Eurotunnel.

Mr Grant, who joined Railtrack only six months ago, was formerly treasurer at Eurotunnel and played a pivotal role in the £8.5 billion refinancing of the debt-laden group. His work at Eurotunnel brought him into close contact with Sir Alastair, who is to head the new Strategic Rail Authority.

Mr Prescott has been anxious to appoint a franchising director with detailed knowledge of the railway industry and a business background. Mr Grant will be responsible for renegotiating franchises with train companies.

His appointment follows that of Tom Winsor, a City lawyer, as the rail regulator, whose main role will be to review the access charges imposed on franchising companies by Railtrack.

Robinson nets £5m in option sale

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, has reaped a profit of more than £5 million after taking advantage of the recent strength of the leisure group's share price to cash in share options.

Last week, he exercised 537,500 share options at a cost of almost £1.4 million, selling them on yesterday for nearly £6.7 million — a profit of £5.26 million. Mr Robinson and his family still hold interests in more than 300,000 shares worth a further £3.7 million.

His timing could turn out to be impeccable. Tomorrow ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial TV service, in which Granada has a 50 per cent stake, will announce its first subscriber numbers since the November launch. Analysts are not expecting a spectacular performance.

Yesterday, the shares rose 25p to £12.39 — almost double October's low point of 684p — after Goldman Sachs added Granada to its recommended list of stocks.

Game on for US virtual toy seller

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER
IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Internet madness continued yesterday as eToys, a virtual toy seller, became the latest company to be valued by the stock market at more than $1 billion (£610 million) — despite posting multi-million dollar losses.

The California-based company announced that it would offer about 8 per cent of its shares to the public, raising more than $80 million and giving it a market capitalisation of about $1.1 billion.

Succeeding in the Internet toy market will not be child's play for eToys. The tiny retailer will compete against the name recognition of the likes of Toys 'R' Us, which has as much as 20 per cent of the toy market in the US.

For its part, eToys is betting that parents and children will prefer shopping from the comfort of their homes rather than battle through queues and crowds at shopping malls.

To judge from investor response to previous flotations by Internet retailers, it would be no surprise if eToys rockets in value as soon as its shares are traded publicly. Last week, shares in Priceline.com, an Internet site where people bid for airline tickets and accommodation, soared more than 500 per cent on the day that it was listed.

Different from other Internet retailers, eToys has broad support from wholesalers as well as Web-hungry investors. The company has been helped by toy manufacturers that are tired of the unpredictable nature of business at existing toy retailers — Toys 'R' Us cut its toy inventory last year as it struggled to lift profitability.

The toy market in the US is worth $23 billion annually and is dominated by a few large chains.

EToys started selling toys in October, 1997, and was the fifth most-visited Internet retailer by last December. However, it made a $15.4 million loss in the nine months to December 31. The company has added 75,000 new customers in the first three months of 1999, giving it a customer base of 365,000.

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Tie Rack bows out quietly with Italian sale

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

TIE RACK will be leaving the stock market with none of the razzmatazz that greeted its arrival 12 years ago. When it floated in 1987 — just weeks ahead of the market's crash on Black Monday — the issue was 85 times oversubscribed and a queue snaked around the Bank of England as investors made desperate last-minute attempts to get hold of the shares.

Like Sock Shop, Knickerbox and the Body Shop, Tie Rack was riding on the wave of the Eighties retailing boom. A successful new category had been invented, niche retailing, and investors wanted a part of it.

Now, even though Tie Rack survived as an independent quoted company longer than many of its peers, it has finally succumbed. One of its main suppliers, an Italian family-owned silk scarf and tie manufacturer named Frangi, is buying it. Roy Bishko, the South African entrepeneur who started Tie Rack in 1981, is taking out about £500,000 and is remaining as co-chairman. He will also own nearly 12 per cent of the company. Frangi, however, is paying just 43½p a share for a company that floated at 145p per share.

The stock market has become an increasingly unfriendly environment for small companies. Tie Rack's trading problems over the past 18 months, which have led to repeated profit warnings, had left it looking very vulnerable.

Mr Bishko feels that he has found a safe home for the company. "I'm very pleased the the company's future will be secure," he said. "From my point of view, I have been working full, full, full time; perhaps now I will just be full, full time."

He started out in the retail trade, after false starts in dentistry and the law, with a chain of shoe repair shops. When they failed to prosper, he bought a job lot of ties from a wholesaler and put them in the window at cost price. The ties — or so legend has it — sold out on the same day.

He received backing from Vadep, a Swiss investment arm of the HSBC banking group, and built up what he claimed was "the smallest multinational in town". Along the way, however, Tie Rack went through some dreadful times. The high street recession at the beginning of the decade and an ill-advised expansion into the US saw the shares fall to a low of 15½p in 1990. The recovery lasted until mid-1997, when the first of its recent profits warnings sent them almost into freefall.

Mr Bishko says he is not bitter about his experiences with the stock market and remains proud of the company's record. "You can look at us and say we floated at 145p and are selling at 43½p, but we did make money."

AstraZeneca to ride out losses as patents end

BY PAUL DURMAN

TOM MCKILLOP, chief executive of the newly merged AstraZeneca, is planning to ride out the expected loss of sales from Losec and Zestril, the big-selling drugs that are approaching patent expiries.

He said AstraZeneca would aim to "at least replace" the lost sales with new products and drugs licensed in from other companies.

Speaking after the completion of the Anglo-Swedish merger, Dr McKillop said that he was seeking a rapid integration of its two constituent pharmaceutical companies. Shares in the new group, narrowly the world's biggest drugs company, traded for the first time yesterday, falling 91p to £29.46.

Dr McKillop said that he had set June 1 as the date to have the group operating as a single company. This will involve a wide-ranging shake-up of management responsibilities, the setting of new budgets and an integration of computer systems.

AstraZeneca is aiming to secure $1.1 billion of annual cost-savings from the merger over the next three years. Dr McKillop would not say how many of the group's 55,000 employees are expected to lose their jobs, but said it would be less than 10 per cent.

He said that the merger, announced in December "has been concluded in record time — 80 working days", which he described as a "tremendous performance".

Dr McKillop said that his priority after completing the integration was to tackle the threat to AstraZeneca's sales posed by the patent expiries on its two biggest sellers. Losec, the Astra ulcer drug that is the world's biggest-selling medicine, is expected to start to lose its protection against competitors from April 2001. Zestril, the Zeneca heart drug, will be vulnerable from mid-2002.

Dr McKillop said: "We have launched 12 products in recent years. We have got as many again scheduled for launch by 2001. We have got a very active in-licensing programme."

Zeneca's shares had been strong in the run-up to the formal completion of the merger, partly because of index funds seeking to increase their weight in the stock.

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US drugs firms to top sales charts

ASTRAZENECA, Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham are set to lose out to American drug companies over the next five years, according to a report from a new pharmaceutical research firm.

Patent expiries on big-selling medicines and a failure to replace the lost sales with new blockbusters means that European firms are forecast to supply only three of the world's 25 best-selling drugs by 2002. Ten years ago, the success of British industry leaders meant that European companies were responsible for half of the top 50.

Evaluate Pharma, a firm set up by Jonathan de Pass, former head of healthcare research at BZW, argues that US companies have read the market better, recognising the huge appeal to US consumers of drugs that ease the pain and burden of growing old.

Michael Marx outside Development Securities' Curzon Street site, which once housed MI5

Developer reports progress

DEVELOPMENT Securities, the property company where Michael Marx is managing director, reported an increase of 61 per cent in pre-tax profit for the year to December 31, to £20 million, from £12.4 million last time (Saeed Shah writes).

Net asset value increased to 337p per share (279p) and earnings per share rose 59 per cent to 66.7p. The final dividend of 2.2p (2p) brings the yearly payout to 3.3p (3p).

Lord Gowrie, chairman, attributed the increase to its development programme, whereby impressive letting activity during 1998 was translated into significant development gains. He also said that the company had benefited from substantial tax losses.

Lord Gowrie will hand over the chairmanship to Hugh Jenkins, previously an executive director of the Prudential Corporation, at May's annual meeting.

Evans to join up with Curnock Cook

BY PAUL DURMAN

TWO of the best-known figures in the UK biotechnology industry are joining forces to take over the running of the £57 million International Biotechnology Trust as NM Rothschild withdraws from the sector.

Jeremy Curnock Cook, head of the Rothschild Bioscience Unit, which has been managing the fund, will join Chris Evans, the founder of Chiroscience and Celsis International, to form Merlin Bioscience. With about 25 people drawn from Dr Evans's Merlin Ventures team and key members of the RBU, the new firm claims it will be one of the world's largest bioscience investment specialists.

The deal will allow Mr Curnock Cook to continue the RBU's active involvement in the companies IBT backs — a policy seen to have hampered its freedom to sell out of problem companies. Mr Curnock Cook is chairman of Biocompatibles International, an IBT investment that was one of the most spectacular casualties of the slump in biotech share prices.

Dr Evans has also had problems. Celsis has lost 80 per cent of its value in 18 months and tumbling valuations have forced Merlin to rethink the debt financing arrangements that previously allowed Dr Evans to take a quick profit on early stage investments.

Dr Evans said that he and Mr Curnock Cook, who will be chief executive of Merlin Bioscience, had learnt from their mistakes, particularly the importance of management.

Merlin, which is seeking to raise a £100 million fund, will also take on the management of RBU's Australian and Canadian biotech funds.

The RBU arose out of the late Victor Rothschild's enthusiasm for biotech. Rothschild is withdrawing from the sector after IBT's failure to agree a merger with Biotechnology Investments Limited, a larger offshore fund advised by the RBU.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

CBI in co-operation talks with BCC

THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY and the British Chambers of Commerce have begun a series of talks on co-operation that could lead to a merger of the business organisations. While neither side expects a sudden merger, neither is ruling out the possibility. A fusion of the two would be the logical conclusion of their present efforts to boost their lobbying voice and pool their resources and expertise. The two groups share views and concerns on a number of policy areas including regional work and help for small businesses. Both are strong supporters of the European single currency. Co-operation on these issues would give both parties a stronger voice in dealings with the Government and other organisations.

The CBI is regarded as the representative of big business with 170 trade association members and 2,500 direct members, while the BCC is seen as the voice of smaller companies with 120,000 members. Talks between Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, and Chris Humphries, Director-General of the BCC, come as Mr Turner prepares to quit his post at the end of this year.

House prices rise

CONFIDENCE is returning to the property market with house prices rising by 1.2 per cent in March, according to new figures from the Halifax. The increase, which brings annual house price inflation to 4.4 per cent, is the latest sign that the housing market is recovering from its winter gloom after a series of recent interest rate cuts. The bank said last month's rise offset the 1 per cent fall in house prices between October 1998 and February 1999. House prices fell by 0.6 per cent in February, marking the third fall in four months.

Backing for Moorfield

MOORFIELD ESTATES, the property minnow, has secured the backing of the secretive Barclay brothers for its £392 million purchase of a property portfolio from Royal & SunAlliance, the insurer. The company yesterday gave details of the deal: it is being funded via a limited partnership, Moorfield Capital Partners, in which the company has invested £12 million for a 24 per cent stake. Moorfield's three executive directors will own 4 per cent, while 72 per cent is controlled by Ellerman Investments, a company owned by David and Frederick Barclay.

Henry J Bean's sold

CAPITAL RADIO, which acquired the My Kinda Town restaurant group in 1996, has sold its Henry J Bean's chain for £2.4 million to a management buyout team backed by ProVen Private Equity. The deal, led by Douglas Smillie, head of Capital's international restaurant operations, includes two directly owned Henry J Bean's outlets in London and Bristol and 18 franchises, including Edinburgh, York, Beijing, Beirut and Bangkok. Mr Smillie said that his new company, the Henry J Bean's Group, would continue to expand overseas through franchise deals.

JSB in software buy

JSB Software Technologies, an Internet access management specialist, yesterday announced the acquisition of Kansmen, a software company based in California, for a maximum of $5 million (£3.1 million). The company also announced that it was raising £5 million, net of expenses, by way of an institutional placing and open offer. The additional funds will be used to finance the Kansmen purchase and to invest in supporting and developing its existing products. Kansmen had turnover of $1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 1998.

Navy chooses Flagship

FLAGSHIP TRAINING, a Vosper Thornycroft joint venture company, said that it has won a 20-year £180 million contract to design, build and operate firefighting training units for the Royal Navy. Under the contract, awarded by the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency, two new state-of-the-art firefighting facilities will be built for the Navy in Plymouth and in Portsmouth, while a unit in Strathclyde will be modified. It is understood to be the first big contract awarded by the Ministry of Defence under the Private Finance Initiative.

Caradon in US sale

CARADON, the builder's merchants group, said yesterday that it has finally completed its disposal programme announced six months ago. It reported that it has sold three remaining North American doors and windows businesses — Peachtree, Thermal-Gard and Caradon Doors and Windows (Canada) for $66 million (£41 million). The three businesses, which have been bought by Nortek, last year made operating profits of £5.4 million. The deals mean that since September Caradon has sold ten businesses for a total of £134 million.

Grafton acquisition

GRAFTON GROUP, the building supplies group, yesterday announced that it has acquired Niall Bailey, a builder's merchant trading in the Birmingham area, for £13.5 million in cash, funded from the group's existing resources. Niall Bailey trades from six branches and the acquisition brings Grafton's presence in the Midlands to 29 branches. Niall Bailey had a pre-tax profit of £380,000 for the year to January 31 on turnover of £13.6 million. Grafton now operates from 85 locations, mainly in the South East and Midlands.

Balfour wins contract

BALFOUR BEATTY MAJOR PROJECTS, a subsidiary of BICC, said yesterday that it has been awarded a £75 million contract by Union Railways for the construction of the easternmost 16-kilometre sector of the Channel Tunnel rail link from Ashford to the tunnel at Folkestone. The section is being constructed alongside the current Ashford to Folkestone line. Balfour Beatty is currently the preferred bidder for the £200 million West Coast Main Line electrification contract.

AEA given share boost by MoD

AEA Technology, still feeling bruised after the share price collapse that followed its recent profits warning, has won a £26 million contract to help to ensure the safety of the reactors in Britain's nuclear submarines (Paul Durman writes).

The company will advise the Ministry of Defence and its new internal regulator on the safe operation and maintenance of reactors in Trident and Hunter Killer submarines.

Two weeks ago, AEA's shares lost 40 per cent of their value in one day when it warned investors of weakening demand for its engineering software and energy consultancy business. At 343½p, the shares are a third of the value they raced to after the business was privatised in 1996.

Marketing lift for SkyePharma

BY PAUL DURMAN

SKYEPHARMA, the drug delivery company headed by Ian Gowrie-Smith, has won US marketing approval for a cancer drug acquired with its recent $25.6 million purchase of DepoTech Corporation.

DepoCyt is an extended-release version of an off-patent drug used to treat dying patients who contract a form of meningitis that can accompany non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Peter Laing, analyst at SG Securities, said Chiron, which will sell the drug in the US, is looking for sales to reach $50 million. He expects a similar level of sales in Europe, though DepoCyt has still to be filed with regulators.

Mr Laing said SkyePharma's deal with Chiron should allow it to make annual profits of $9 million from US sales by 2002, and another $3 million of royalties from non-US sales.

Michael Ashton, SkyePharma's chief executive, said DepoCyt offered patients an improved quality of life, reducing the number of injections they need. Marketing of the drug will trigger another payment to DepoTech's vendors.

Shares in SkyePharma rose 3½p to 64p. They have been weak recently, partly because SmithKline Beecham has not revealed its plans for the version of Paxil, its big-selling anti-depressant, that SkyePharma helped to develop. Eli Lilly also abandoned work on a promising heart drug on which SkyePharma was collaborating.

Italy expected to lead return of Western presence

Oil companies look to Libya

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

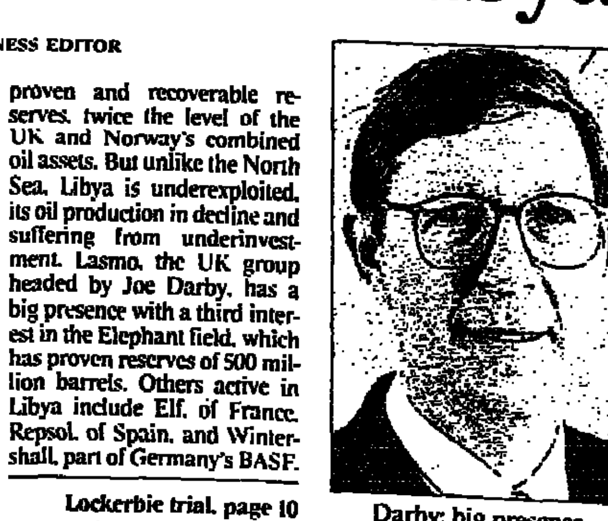
LIBYA'S huge oil reserves could be the next prize for Western energy companies as the country slowly sheds its pariah status and begins to court foreign investment.

Only a day after the two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing were sent to a court in The Netherlands, Italy's Foreign Minister was heading to Tripoli on the first flight since economic sanctions were imposed by the United Nations in 1992. His presence confirms the importance of Libya to Italy: ENI, the Italian oil company already has a large presence in the country; Italy is a big importer of Libyan crude and has ambitions to link Libya to Italy's gas network.

Other oil industry executives are certain to follow as airlines renew potentially lucrative traffic to the country. Western oilmen have had to take circuitous routes to the country, overland via Tunisia or by ship. They will soon flock there as they previously rushed to Iran when the US, last year, agreed to turn a blind eye to non-US investment in the country.

Libya has vast oil resources — some 30 billion barrels of proven and recoverable reserves, twice the level of the UK and Norway's combined oil assets. But unlike the North Sea, Libya is underexploited, its oil production in decline and suffering from underinvestment. Lasmo, the UK group headed by Joe Darby, has a big presence with a third interest in the Elephant field, which has proven reserves of 500 million barrels. Others active in Libya include Elf, of France, Repsol, of Spain, and Wintershall, part of Germany's BASF.

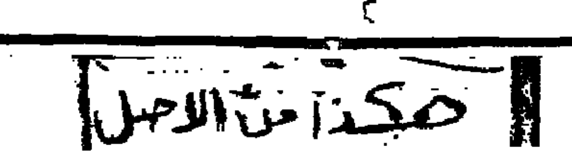
Lockerbie trial, page 10


Darby: big presence

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.63	2.45
Austria Sch	21.39	19.73
Belgium Fr	62.96	58.00
Canada $	2.512	2.324
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9006	0.8291
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.72
Egypt	5.63	5.02
Finland Mkk	9.36	8.61
France Fr	10.19	9.41
Germany Dm	3.061	2.819
Greece Dr	509	470
Hong Kong $	13.14	11.94
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17453	12453
Ireland Pt	1.2214	1.1324
Israel Shk	6.79	6.13
Italy Lira	3044	2807
Japan Yen	207.05	189.52
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlds Gld	3.456	3.161
New Zealand $	3.14	2.90
Norway Kr	12.98	12.02
Portugal Esc	309.60	287.57
S Africa Rd	10.46	9.50
Spain Pta	258.01	239.22
Sweden Kr	13.98	12.86
Switzerland Fr	2.518	2.300
Turkey Lira	620023	[illegible]
USA $	1.695	1.552

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Niche work if you can get it



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

An Internet toy shop will shortly make its stock market debut with a valuation of more than $1 billion. Never mind the multiple on earnings — there are none — the price is more than 45 times the company's total sales last year.

Clearly, it would be wrong to say that investors have lost their appetite for niche retailers. By comparison with the enthusiasm now being generated by eToys, the reception which greeted the launch of Tie Rack back in 1987 seems positively staid. The share issue, 85 times oversubscribed, was at least for a company with a profit record.

Admittedly, eToys is planning to play on the American stock market, but it might encounter a similarly rapturous welcome in the UK, such is the current enthusiasm for any stock with Internet connections. But niche retailing, whether on line or on station forecourts, has its limits.

The redoubtable Roy Bishko at least held out very much longer than Sophie Mirman, the Sock Shop founder. She found a niche and exploited it but did not know when to stop. Her expansion plans went far beyond the market she had found.

By their very nature, niches have limits. Even bored travellers do not have an insatiable appetite for Mickey Mouse ties and stripey socks. Tie Rack had the ambitions of a big business when it is, essentially, a small one. And small companies are no longer welcome on the stock exchange.

But there should still be backers for bright new retailers who can spot that elusive gap in the market. Trained eyes are currently focused on The Holding Company, the brainchild of an American woman whose enthusiasm for keeping things tidy inspired her to open a shop devoted to helping people to keep their things in order. So successful has the first branch been that THC is now developing into a chain. It could even be heading for an appearance on the World Wide Web.

It will take years before retailers can gauge how shoppers will divide their spending between the Web and the high street. The likelihood is that there will be room in the marketplace for both eToys and Toys'R'Us, but the newcomer has a very long way to go before it can rival the buying power of the market leader. And that brings us to the crucial issue of price.

Shoppers are more price conscious than ever, on both sides of the Atlantic. They will not happily pay a premium to buy over the Web, despite the convenience that it offers. And the price charged by the virtual retailer has to take account of the cost of delivering the goods to the customer.

That factor could put a heavy burden on the Internet stores. Even Amazon.com, the fashionably unprofitable bookseller, demonstrates how margins suffer when books must travel.

Clever investors may find that, as ever, the real money will be made by the middle men. The distribution companies will be the first beneficiaries of e-commerce.

A victory for market forces

The battle for Kosovo has been a bizarre one by any standards. On the ground, the two sides have been operating on completely different battlegrounds with wholly disparate time horizons. In the financial markets, no one has been interested in gold, the traditional store of value in times of chaos. Yet shares have blithely broken into new highs in New York and, eventually, in London.

Investors evidently feel that the whole thing is far too short-term to have any destablising or inflationary effects beyond the Balkans. The threat of a no-confidence vote succeeding in the Indian Parliament and IMF officials' haggling with Russia are proving more price-sensitive.

Only the euro has truly suffered. Euroland's proximity to the killing fields may have something to do with it, along with the dollar's safe haven status, especially for Americans. But traders just love any excuse to kick a currency when it is down.

The pragmatic, unsentimental, market view yesterday was therefore different to that of Nato. Serbia's Easter "ceasefire" was the reality on the ground and spelt the beginning of the end of this conflict, regardless of Nato's aims or the fate of the Kosovars.

So euros bounced back against the dollar and trod on the pound, the old man in the middle of the road. The euro's post-launch debacle is not over yet but if and when it concludes, sterling may find all the bullies pointing at it and gilt-edged prices under pressure.

Meanwhile, there seems nothing to stop shares rising. London's FTSE 100 index would in any case have reacted yesterday to its twin's advance in New York late on Maundy Thursday. Over Easter weekend, there was more short-term good news as tens of thousands of savers rushed to buy last-minute personal equity plans while stocks lasted. Most of that money will have to go straight into UK equities.

The Pep inflow was a reminder of a more potent force. Liquidity in pension funds remains high, a relic of the autumn 1998 correction that stopped the share index improving on its July 1998 peak until about six weeks ago.

Share ratings are already dizzily high by historical standards as well as in relation to extremely dull profit trends. The only force likely to cause another massive "correction" is a rise in short-term interest rates. The US Federal Reserve is doing its best to hold off. But the bad news for market is eventually more likely to come from a loss of nerve in Washington than in Belgrade.

Quiet man is the big noise at C&W

When Graham Wallace took over from Dick Brown at Cable & Wireless, he did not relinquish all interest in his former role. Since C&W continues to hold 53 per cent of Cable & Wireless Communications, Mr Wallace still has some sway over what goes on there. In fact, the profile of Greg Clarke, his successor as chief executive at CWC, has been so low that one might assume Mr Wallace is still running the show, and continuing to negotiate the deal with Telewest which he had on his wish list last year.

But Mr Wallace's plans go far beyond that sensible merger. Dynamic Dick Brown led the first wave of restructuring at C&W but there is much further to go. Quiet, understated Graham Wallace may be the man to create a C&W which can grab its share of the glamour ratings in which most of the telecoms sector now basks.

Deal-hungry bankers are besieging him with complicated plans. Mr Wallace may be wary: after all, he is now having to ask the courts to help him to sort out C&W's $1.75 billion Internet purchase from the sharp shooters at MCI. So why not just opt for the easy ways of demonstrating C&W's attractions? Float mobile phone operator One2One; sell down the stakes in Hong Kong Telecom and Optus, and, perhaps, in CWC.

That should make clear that investors are currently getting the rest of C&W for a song. Mr Wallace is tuning up to take the company into the hit parade.

Monumental struggle

No sooner do Enterprise Oil and Lasmo stop talking about how they might engineer a friendly get together than they find themselves at odds. Monument Oil is the cause. Tim Eggar has but a negligible stake in the firm but the former Tory energy minister may still find his political skills of use in playing one potential bidder off against another. Who would have emerged as chief executive in a merged L'Enterprise is unclear but now Pierre Jungels and Joe Darby have the chance to show their strengths.

Jarvis shares hit after warning on cost of strikes

By Robert Lea

JARVIS, the rail and roads maintenance group said yesterday that months of industrial action by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union (RMT) should soon end.

But it said the intermittent strikes would result in profits for the past financial year falling short of City forecasts. After the warning the shares fell nearly 12 per cent yesterday.

Jarvis, which has expanded rapidly over the past three years to account for the maintenance of a fifth of the UK rail network, said yesterday that a new pay and conditions deal had been thrashed out. It said RMT members would vote on the new deal in the next three weeks and that the proposals would carry a recommendation from the RMT executive.

The deal is, according to Henry Lafferty, Jarvis finance director, "ground-breaking after decades of little change in working arrangements".

It means that night-time and weekend working will no longer be classed as overtime but that RMT members will now receive a higher basic rate of pay. Mr Lafferty said its traditionally lower-paid workers would not now have to put in extra time to make up their pay packets and that they would be able to achieve the same levels of income from being on duty fewer hours.

On the flip-side, said Mr Lafferty, this would give the company greater flexibility in overnight and weekend rostering.

However, the prolonged industrial action over changes in working practices, which had been going on since last June, will take the shine off Jarvis's results for the year to March 31.

Announcing that the results will not meet market expectations, Paris Moayedi, chief executive, said: "It would be unrealistic to assume that such a fundamental overhaul of working practices could have been achieved without some tension between the parties."



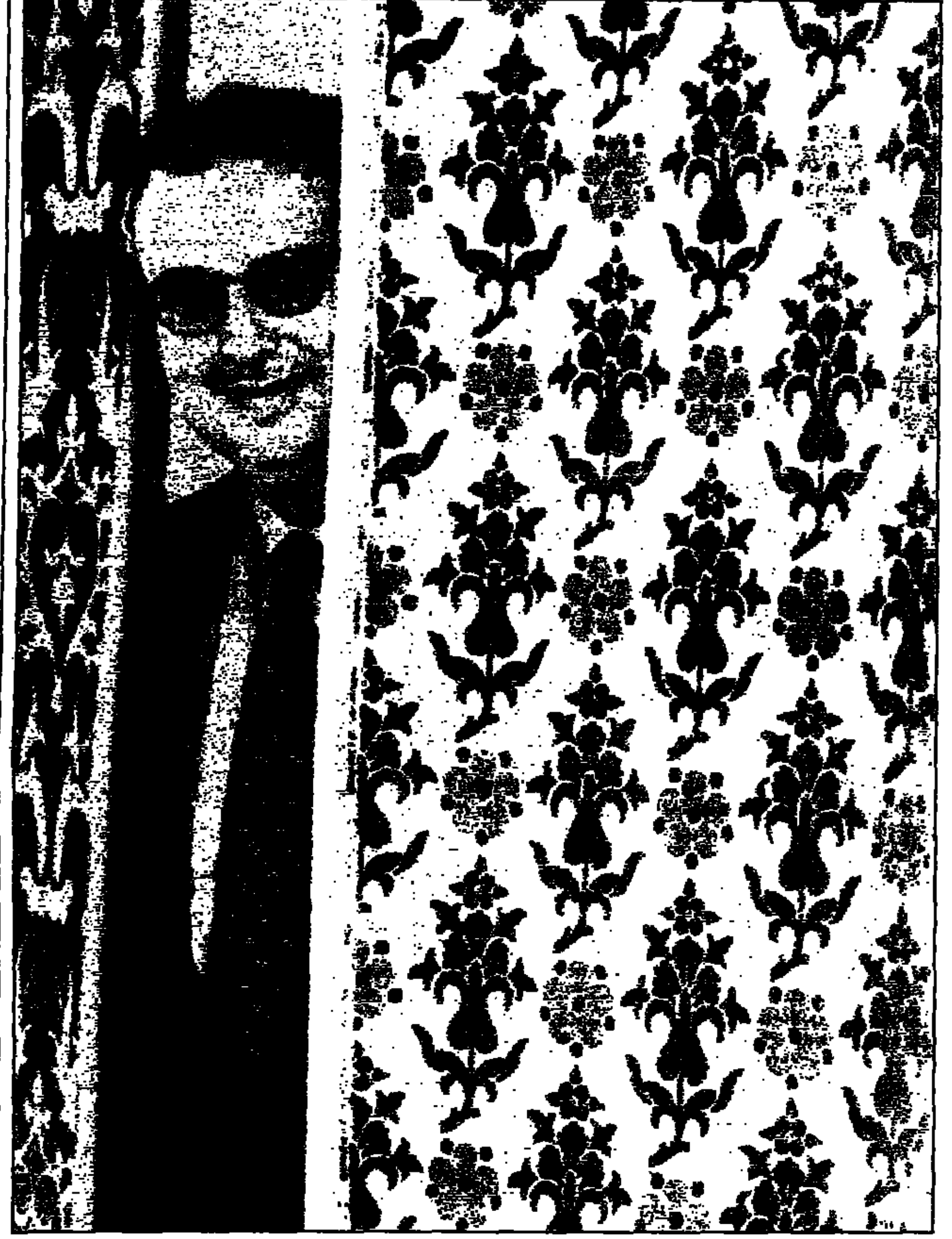
Moayedi: "strong action"

He said: "During the industrial action, Jarvis Rail took strong action to ensure that the company maintained its services. Inevitably, however, the cost of implementing this action had an adverse effect on the company's operating results. This was compounded by the wholly unrelated and well-publicised decision by Railtrack to defer certain renewal activities while the criteria which should be applied to renewals decisions were reviewed."

Peel Hunt, the broker, immediately cuts its pre-tax profit forecast for the year to £56 million from £62.7 million. Although the company said the problems it had highlighted affected only the past financial year, Peel Hunt pulled back its forecasts for the current year to £77 million from £80 million.

Jarvis shares closed down 64½p at 478p.

Tempus, page 26



Papering over the cracks: Aidan Connolly expressed confidence in an upturn this year

Greenbank profits fall in wake of disposals

By Sarah Cunningham

WALKER GREENBANK, the company that supplied the infamously expensive wallpaper for the refurbished residence of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, saw its profits more than halve last year after the disposal of some operations.

Pre-tax profits, excluding exceptional items, in the year to January 31 fell to £3.4 million from £7.8 million. Sales were down 4 per cent to £52.4 million. The company made an exceptional profit of £29.7 million on the sale of its commercial wallcoverings businesses.

The company admitted that the policy of buying up distribution rights in continental countries had "proved to be an expensive mistake".

But Aidan Connolly, chief executive, said that while market conditions remained difficult, especially in Europe, the company was "looking forward to a considerable improvement this year".

He said that sales were running ahead of the same time last year, with two of the businesses, Zoffany and Harlequin, already returned to profit. The company will pay a final dividend of 2p (3.4p). It did not pay any interim, so the full-year payout will be 2p (3.7p).

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Cleveland backs cash bid from Ashtenne

By Saeed Shah

ASHTENNE HOLDINGS, the industrial property investment company, has made a recommended cash offer for Cleveland Trust, a property company with a similar portfolio. At 111p per Cleveland share, the offer values Cleveland at £33 million.

The offer represents a premium of about 47 per cent to the closing middle-market price of 75½p per Cleveland share on September 9, 1998, the last dealing day prior to the announcement by Cleveland that Trefick had acquired a 5.49 per cent holding in the company. Trefick an Isle of Man investment vehicle holds a 14 per cent stake in Ashtenne and has built up a 28 per cent stake in Cleveland.

The purchase will be financed from Ashtenne's existing resources. Ashtenne said its acquisition of Cleveland is in line with its strategy to increase its industrial holdings in the UK.

Cleveland, which owns and operates the port of Boston in Lincolnshire, reported pre-tax profits of £1.3 million (£997,000) on turnover of £5 million (£4.3 million) for the six months to September 30, 1998. Net assets were £33 million, with asset value per share at 110.5p, compared with 106.6p last time.

News Corp finalises deals

From Andrew Butcher in New York

TWO deals yesterday gave The News Corporation an increased presence in US cable sports and entertainment broadcasting and added to the media group's list of leading shareholders.

In the first deal, News Corp moved to full ownership of the Fox/Liberty Networks, buying out its 50 per cent partner, Liberty Media Group, the AT&T subsidiary which is run by John Malone.

Liberty's stake in the cable group, which is focused on the Fox Sports Net and FX entertainment channels, was exchanged for $1.425 billion (£900 million) of News Corp shares. The deal represents about 5 per cent of NewsCorp shares.

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive officer of News Corp, said that the deal would give the company full control over one of its fastest growing sources of revenue.

Mr Murdoch said: "As TV gets more fragmented, the one thing that stands out is live-event broadcasts. It draws the large numbers. It's a very strong cornerstone for all our cable strategies."

The second deal involves News Corp buying back $1.39 billion worth of shares acquired in 1995 by MCI WorldCom, the US long-distance telephone company.

News Corp will then sell half the stake to Liberty for about $700 million. Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi Arabian investor, will add to his existing 5 per cent parcel of News Corp shares by buying a $200 million slice of the MCI stake.

The two deals will give Liberty an 8 per cent stake in News Corp, making it the shareholder with the second-biggest stake. Only the Murdoch family owns more, controlling about 30 per cent of the company's shares.

News Corp owns News International, the company that owns *The Times* and several other UK media properties.

Banks call for universal Isa Catmark logo

By Marianne Curphey

HIGH street banks, insurers and financial services companies are clubbing together to design a logo to help investors to spot which new individual savings account (Isa) carries a Catmark.

The logo could feature a cat's paw, a feline face or just a simple tick to denote that the savings product meets the necessary criteria laid down by the Treasury covering costs, access and terms.

A number of companies have already brought out prototype Catmarked products without having a common mark or logo and there is concern that investors will be confused.

Yesterday, on the first day that the new Isa was available, ten financial services companies said that they were drawing up a shortlist of four Cat logos to be used across the industry.

Direct Line, b2, Fidelity, Legal & General, Marks & Spencer Financial Services, Royal & SunAlliance, Scottish Widows, Sun Bank, Standard Life and Virgin Direct are backing the plan. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif) are also taking part.

Di Skidmore, of b2, said: "We have seen a plethora of marketing logos for Cat standard products and we wanted to design a common logo which would be widely recognised." The Financial Services Authority said it had no objection to the plan provided the logo kept within its advertising rules.

STOCK MARKET  PAUL ARMSTRONG

Telecoms sector climbs on more merger talk

INVESTORS resumed the scramble for telecommunications stocks amid more talk of mergers and figures showing spectacular rises in mobile phone subscriptions.

Telewest Communications led the charge, leaping 6.8 per cent to 296¼p in what was the third-biggest rise in FTSE 100 stocks on the day. Speculation centred on the possibility of Telewest merging with **Cable & Wireless Communications**. CWC shares rocketed 36½p to 754½p, and those of its parent, **Cable & Wireless**, added 23½p to 775½p. **Vodafone Group** gained 24p to £12.06. **Orange** surged 34p to 928p and **Securicor**, which owns part of Cellnet, added 5p to 573p.

Analysts described the mobile telephone subscription figures for the March quarter as "spectacular" and "exceptional", saying that they refocused investors' attention on the industry's huge growth profile.

Energis followed suit, jumping 77p to £19.05, as did **BT**, with a rise of 54p to £10.82.

The renewed appetite for telecommunications stocks combined with another surge on Wall Street on Monday to push the FTSE 100 index to a record close of 6,415.3, up 85.3 points. It peaked at 6,443.9 in mid-morning trade before profit-takers moved in. Sentiment was also buoyed by strong performances on Far Eastern markets overnight and a weaker pound.

Strong gains in technology stocks on Wall Street flowed over into the London market, enabling **Dixons**, owner of the Freeserve Internet service, to record the biggest rise of the FTSE 100 stocks. The shares finished 111p higher at £14.16.

Reuters added 54p to 959p, continuing its recovery from a 12-month low of 418p in October.

A bullish note from CS First Boston, the broker, saw **Marks & Spencer** tussle for top spot among the FTSE 100 risers for most of the day. After being a little slow off the blocks, the shares raced to 436¼p, up 7.6 per cent, after CSFB said that investors were undervaluing M&S's recovery prospects.

It said that most of the retailer's recovery would be made in the second half and that M&S would reassert its market leadership in clothing over the medium term.



Halifax, which rose 15p to 801½p yesterday, has been downgraded from hold to sell by Charterhouse Securities

Next enjoyed one of its better days on the market since the release last month of the retailer's profit results. The shares jumped 25.5p to 752p.

Kingfisher added 38½p to 810½p, but it was not all good news for retailers, with **Great Universal Stores** dropping 38p to 637½p.

Banking and insurance shares enjoyed a strong day, helped by fund managers looking for homes for the millions of pounds that have flowed into Peps and Tessas in the lead up to the April 1 deadline.

Those considered to offer the best prospects of capital growth posted the strongest gains. **CGU** jumped 51½p to 983½p, and **Royal & Sun Alliance** put on 11¼p to 575¼p.

St James's Place Capital rose 6½p to 249½p on the back of continuing speculation that it would soon be the subject of a takeover bid from **Prudential Corp**. The Pru finished 2p higher at 795p.

Among the banks, **HSBC** raced to £21.03, up 58p, and **Lloyds** climbed 25p to 977p as brokers cited the company's track record of exceeding average earnings growth. Investors' pursuit of the bigger names also helped **Standard Chartered** to rise 28p to 924½p and **Barclays** to gain 22p to £18.80

However, a report to be released today by Charterhouse Securities, the broker, will advise investors to take an underweight position in the mortgage banks. Charterhouse has downgraded its recommendations on **Halifax** (up 15p to 801½p) and Woolwich (up 7¾p to 385½p) from hold to sell.

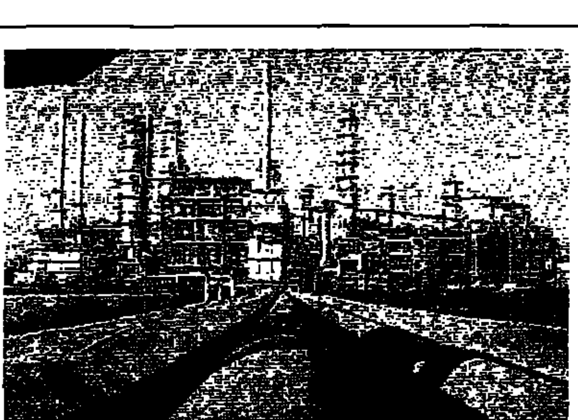
The report says that returns on new business will about one third of that enjoyed on the current book.

Capital Radio rose 17p to 700p after it announced the sale of its Henry J Bean's restaurant brand to a management buyout team. Although the price was just £2.4 million, the market welcomed the deal as a further sign of Capital's gradual unravelling of its ill-conceived acquisition of the My Kinda Town restaurant group in 1996. Analysts believe it is just a matter of time before it sells its Latin American theme bars and restaurants, leaving Radio Cafe as its only restaurant brand.

Investors appear to be viewing **EMI Group** in a more favourable light since the company gave an in depth presentation to analysts last month, its first for several years. The stock put on 29¼p to 488¾p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: UK gilt prices staged a late recovery, with the benchmark 9 per cent 2008 gilt up £1.08 to £134.52. Traders said the market had been caught long ahead of a meeting later this week of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, at which interest rates are expected to be cut. The 6.5 per cent 2003 gilt was 39p higher at £108.21.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street bulls cooled their heels after Monday's run into the record books. News of a Serbian ceasefire in Kosovo offered little if any reason for stocks to rise. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 41.34 points at 9,965.99.



THE embattled oil sector has started breathing a little easier in the past week or so thanks to promises of production cuts.

There are lingering doubts as to whether all the commitments will be honoured. Concerns about inventory levels are also likely to keep the corks in the industry's champagne bottles for some time yet.

However, in a 216-page review of the sector, Merrill Lynch, the broker, says earnings forecasts for oil companies should be upgraded provided that the price remains at current levels.

Merrill's forecast for Brent crude stands at $13.50 a barrel for this year, rising to $16.50 in 2000. It traded at $15 yesterday.

"With the prospect of an ever-improving oil price background, we are moving overweight in the sector on a six to 12-month view," the broker wrote. It says the market is yet to recognise the possibility that inventories may be on the brink of another overcorrection, this time by being reduced to heavily.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9965.99 (−41.34)
S&P Composite	1317.59 (−3.53)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16479.71 (+144.93)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	Closed

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	536.34 (+2.71)

Sydney:

AO	3032.9 (+59.5)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4965.29 (+50.70)

Singapore:

Straits	1606.15 (+24.55)

Brussels:

BEL20	3299.06 (+33.81)

Paris:

CAC-40	4304.48 (+74.63)

Zurich:

SMI Index	7170.0 (+37.6)

London:

FT 30	3873.3 (+34.5)
FTSE 100	6415.3 (+85.3)
FTSE 250	5456.7 (+3.4)
FTSE 350	3097.9 (+34.7)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2967.24 (+34.62)
FTSE All-Share	2938.28 (+32.06)
FTSE Non Financials	2969.60 (+29.68)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.51 (+0.69)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.17 (+0.95)
Bargains	104348
SEAQ Volume	969.5m
US$	1.5898 (−0.0152)
Euro	0.6769 (+0.0032)
£:SDR	n/a
Exchange Index	101.7 (−0.5)
Bank on England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	271	−	1½
BGI Endowment III	100	+	½
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	114½	+	½
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	20	+	1
Canary Wharf	333½	+	2
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¼	−	¼
Gander Properties	7½		.
Gartmore High Income	108	+	1
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾		...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	102¾		...
Govett Enhanced Inc	94		..
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108¼	+	¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	104½	+	1¼
Luminar Warrants	255		...
M Currie Cap Return	75½		...
M Currie Portfolio	79¼	−	¼
Mercury Asset Allocator	105½	+	1
Morse Holdings	242½		...
Murray Global Return B Uts	185		...
Murray Global Return Prf	102¼		...
Murray Global Return Units	184½	+	¼
NBA Quantum	110		...
Sports Internet	150	−	2½

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	31	+	1
Holmes Place n/p (275)	18		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Foster (J)	10½	+ 3½	+ 50.0
Xenova	108½	+ 22	+ 25.4
Tie Rack	42½	+ 7½	+ 21.4
Sterling Pub	27	+ 3½	+ 14.8
Howard Hldgs	71½	+ 7½	+ 11.7
Monument	47¾	+ 5	+ 11.6
Molins	155	+ 15	+ 10.7
Costain	24½	+ 2	+ 8.8
LPA	95½	+ 7½	+ 8.5
Oasis Stores	185	+ 13½	+ 7.8
Marks Spencer	436¼	+ 30¾	+ 7.5
Development Sec	241½	+ 17	+ 7.5
Atlantic Telecom	263	+ 17	+ 6.9
Scotia	108½	+ 7	+ 6.8
TeleWest	296¼	+ 19	+ 6.8
Atkins WS	437½	+ 27½	+ 6.7
Tempus Gp	261	+ 14½	+ 5.8
SkyePharma	64	+ 3½	+ 5.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Coffee Rep	11	− 1½	− 12.0
Leeds Group	45½	− 3½	− 7.1
Nord Anglia	222	− 17	− 7.1
Total Systems	47½	− 3½	− 6.8

TEMPUS

Bitter pill to swallow

THE market spoilt the party at AstraZeneca yesterday, knocking the shares 91p lower to £29.46 on the first day of trading in the newly merged drugs group. A pause for breath was overdue — Zeneca shares had climbed from £24 only last month as investors positioned themselves for AstraZeneca's heavier weighting in the FTSE 100 index.

Further buying by index funds is likely to dominate short-term price movements. The heavy Swedish ownership inherited from Astra could easily apply an artificial squeeze on the price.

The continuing growth of Losec, the Astra ulcer drug, and the $1.1 billion of savings anticipated from the merger should ensure that AstraZeneca will continue to grow strongly over the next three years.

The market's nagging worry is the impact of the patent expiries on Losec and Zestril, the Zeneca heart drug, that could start to bite from 2001. Tom McKillop, the chief executive, talked confidently about overcoming this hurdle yesterday. Not everyone shares his faith in perprazole, the follow-up to Losec that will face a wave of cheap competition.

Additionally, Merrill Lynch believes that it has detected the first signs of a change in sentiment in favour of cyclicals, perhaps bringing an end to the extraordinary run enjoyed by the big drug stocks.

It is this track record that should form the biggest worry about paying £30 for AstraZeneca. Within the last 18 months, Zeneca shares were trading for little more than £17. Such high ratings leave the sector vulnerable to the faltering attempts at US healthcare reform and other nasty surprises. Take profits.

Jarvis

THE only check on the seemingly inexorable rise of Jarvis has been its ongoing dispute with four fifths of its 5,000 workers employed on the maintenance and renewal of Britain's railways.

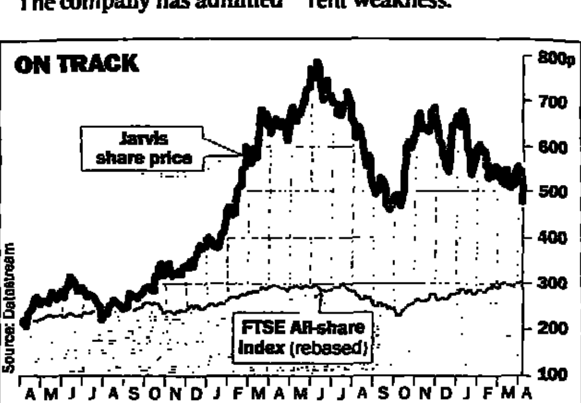
From 5p five years ago to 787p last summer, the company has bought businesses that now give it responsibility for 20 per cent of UK tracks.

But Jarvis was founded on former British Rail maintenance companies replete with inflexible former public sector working practices.

Yesterday the company said that it has finally struck a deal that it hopes will revolutionise its industrial relations. Its maintenance work is done during the week, but at night. Its intensive engineering renewal work is done at weekends. Staff, however, have been on lowly paid contracts for daylight weekday hours, with all other work paid as overtime. With a high basic salary, but flexible hours, the company said that it now has a flexible and more productive workforce which should see the beginning of the end, for instance, of a £16 million-a-year agency staff bill to ensure that it fulfils its contracts.

The company has admitted that it has taken a short-term hit. But with Railtrack's ten-year £27 billion investment programme, the fundamentals remain for Jarvis, which is also in road maintenance via its Streamline subsidiary.

With a share price to 1999 earnings multiple of about 16, Jarvis looks cheap among its peer group. Buy into the current weakness.



Monument

IF MONUMENT Oil & Gas is prepared to quit, what hope is their for the survival of lesser fry? Tony Craven Walker, Monument's chairman, has always been regarded as the cleverest in-and-out merchant in the volatile exploration sector. Not for him, huge teams of geologists and vast production teams. Monument was always an investor ready to take a chance.

Monument has a knack in timing things well; it raised £100 million last spring, tapping the share market before it fell away with the oil price. It is cash-rich in a sector burdened with debt and Mr Craven Walker insists that he may be a buyer rather than a seller. But the colours at the masthead look more like the white flag of surrender than the Jolly Roger.

Monument has built up an interesting collection of assets; it has found oil but needs to get it to market. Transport in Turkmenistan costs $6 per barrel, offering opportunity but no margin today. At $14 per barrel, high-risk exploration is a mug's game; certainty is required but opportunities in the established fields of the Persian Gulf and Iran are being pursued aggressively by European majors, soon to be followed by their US cousins.

In such a world UK independents are marginal players, as shown by Premier Oil, which yesterday admitted defeat in Iran. Once again, Monument may be timing its exit well.

Walker Greenbank

WALKER GREENBANK is a company with very good intentions. It says that it is confident of "a considerable recovery" but also let shareholders know of several reasons why this could all go wrong.

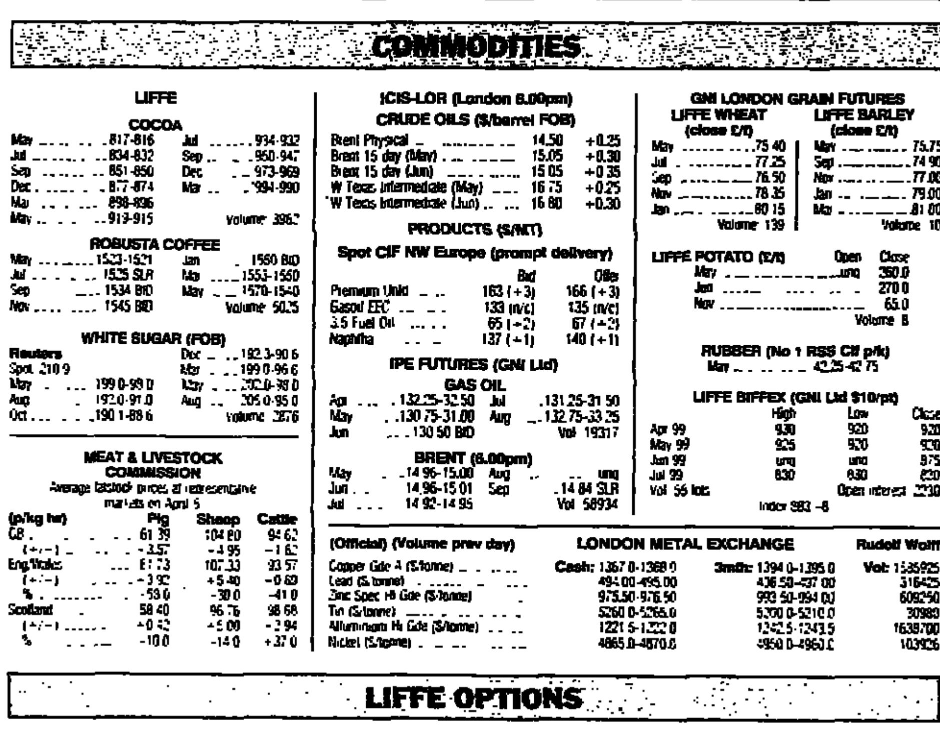
Factors in its favour are an improvement in underlying trading in the second half, a further pick-up in trade at Harlequin and contract fabrics since the year end, a strong balance sheet and greater controls on costs.

Among the macroeconomic worries, the strength of the pound could certainly have a huge effect on the company's profitability as 44 per cent of turnover is derived from exports. Also of concern will be the admission that restructuring the European business will involve some exceptional costs in the first half of the current year.

But what is likely to have an even bigger effect on the share price is investor sentiment, and at the moment that is firmly turned against such small manufacturers.

With a few clouds hanging over the company's head, and in the absence of any overwhelmingly compelling buy story, these shares are likely to remain in the doldrums for some time to come.

COMMODITIES



LIFFE

COCOA

May	817-816	Jul	934-932
Jul	834-832	Sep	950-947
Sep	851-850	Dec	973-969
Dec	877-874	Mar	994-990
May	898-896		

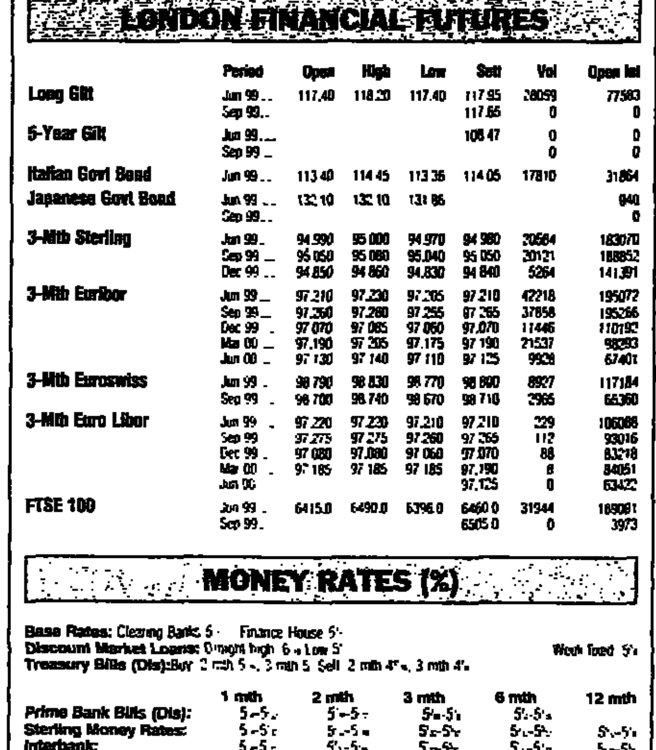
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.50	+0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	15.05	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.05	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.75	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.80	+0.30

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	75.40	May	75.75
Jul	77.25	Sep	74.90
Sep	76.50	Nov	77.00
Nov	78.35	Jan	79.00
Jan	80.15	Mar	81.00

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES



	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	117.40	118.20	117.40	117.95	28059	77583
	Sep 99				117.65	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.47	0	0
	Sep 99					0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	113.40	114.45	113.36	114.05	17810	31864
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.790	98.830	98.770	98.800	8927	117184
	Sep 99	98.700	98.740	98.670	98.710	2966	65360
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.220	97.230	97.210	97.210	229	106088
	Sep 99	97.275	97.275	97.260	97.265	112	93016
	Dec 99	97.080	97.080	97.060	97.070	88	83218
	Mar 00	97.185	97.185	97.185	97.190	8	84051
	Jun 00				97.125	0	63422
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6415.0	6490.0	6396.0	6460.0	31944	169081
	Sep 99				6505.0	0	3973

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House [illegible]
Discount Market Loans: O/night high 6 Low [illegible] Week fixed [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth [illegible], 3 mth [illegible] Sell 2 mth [illegible], 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.90	4.95	5.17
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $278.40-278.70 **Close:** $278.80-279.30 **High:** $278.80-279.30 **Low:** $278.30-278.90 **AM:** $278.35 **PM:** $278.50
Krugerrand: $279.75-281.75 (£175.50-177.50)
Platinum: $354.25 (£223.50) **Silver:** $4.975 (£3.115) **Palladium:** $359.00 (£226.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 6	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.973-11.061	10.973-10.984	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4764-1.4784	1.4766-1.4781	0.12-0.14pr	0.36-0.39pr
Montreal	2.3821-2.4006	2.3905-2.3934	0.11-0.04pr	0.23-0.10pr
New York	1.5864-1.5972	1.5894-1.5903	0.06-0.04pr	0.010-0.007pr
Oslo	12.316-12.424	12.316-12.332	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.114-13.209	13.125-13.148	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	192.12-193.91	192.31-192.58	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3571-2.3744	2.3571-2.3594	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5938-1.5951
Canada	1.5032-1.5042
Denmark	6.9300-6.9340
Euro	1.0712-1.0720
Hong Kong	7.7474-7.7484
Japan	121.08-121.18
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.7778-7.7828
Singapore	1.7330-1.7335
Sweden	8.2950-8.3050
Switzerland	1.4877-1.4887

OTHER STERLING

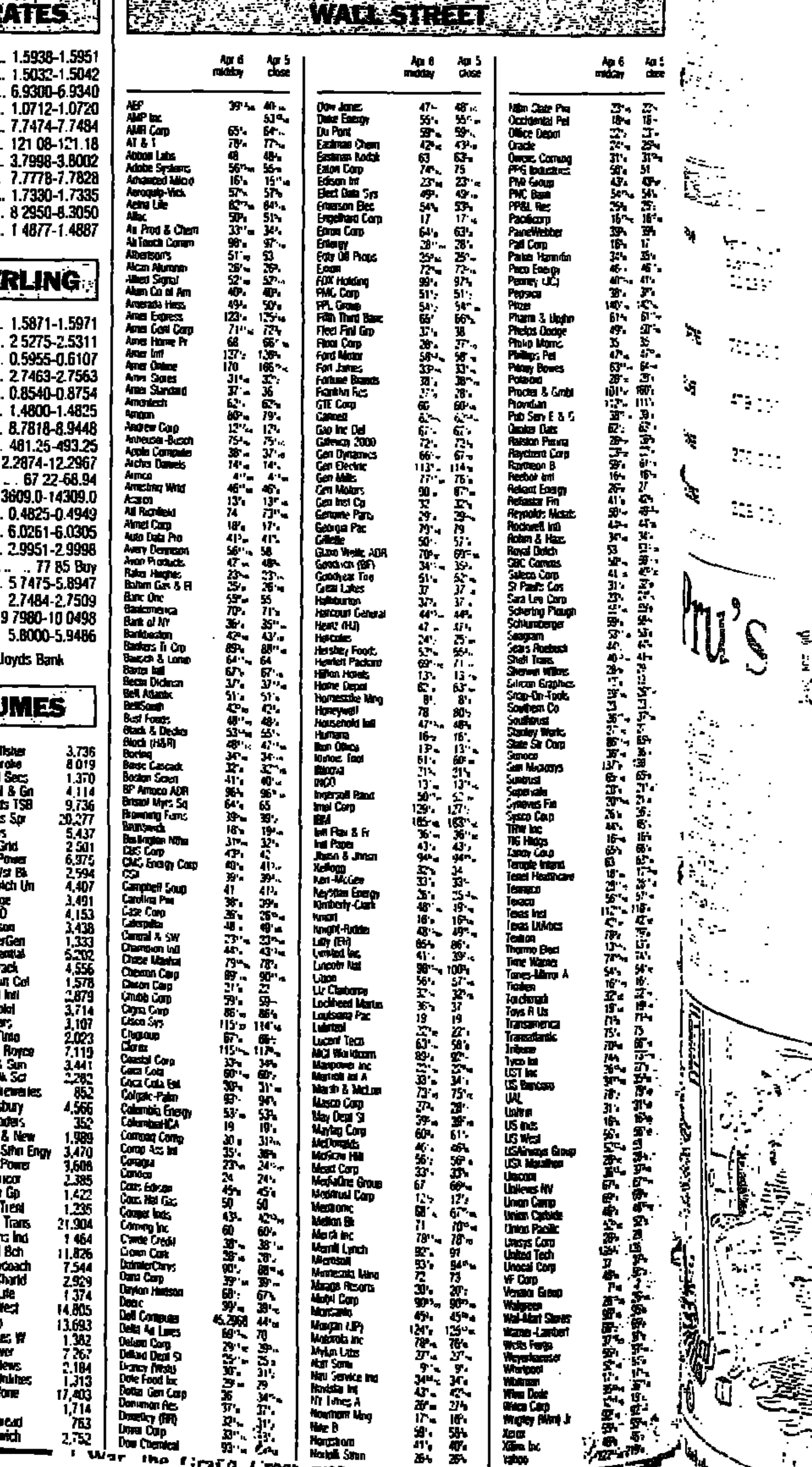
Argentina peso*	1.5871-1.5971
Australia dollar	2.5275-2.5311
Bahrain dinar	0.5955-0.6107
Brazil real*	2.7463-2.7563
Cyprus pound	0.8540-0.8754
Euro	1.4800-1.4825
Finland markka	8.7818-8.9448
Greece drachma	481.25-493.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.2874-12.2967
India rupee	67.22-68.94
Indonesia rupiah	13609.0-14309.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4825-0.4949
Malaysia ringgit	6.0261-6.0305
New Zealand dollar	2.9951-2.9998
Pakistan rupee	77.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7475-5.8947
Singapore dollar	2.7484-2.7509
S Africa rand	9.7980-10.0498
U A E dirham	5.8000-5.9486

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

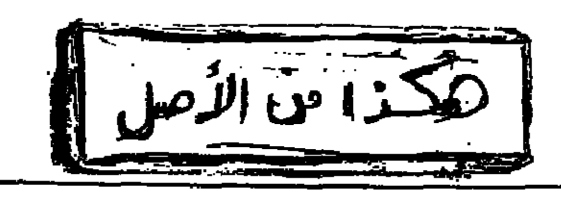
3i	697	Kingfisher	3,736
ASDA Gp	8,291	Ladbroke	8,019
Abbey Nat	2,444	Land Secs	1,370
Allnce & Leic	1,027	Legal & Gn	4,114

WALL STREET



LIFFE OPTIONS

هكذا من الاصل



The lessons of base rate neutrality

The concept of the neutral rate of interest has been making a frequent appearance recently in the debate over UK monetary policy. For interested onlookers this trendy piece of econospeak is inherently attractive. It does not owe its origins to complex economic theory and can be explained easily in layman's terms as follows.

Interest rates are said to be at their "neutral" level when they neither add to nor subtract from the level of economic growth. At least, in principle, this has implications for policymakers. As a rule of thumb, base rates should be below their neutral level when the authorities wish to stimulate the pace of activity. Conversely, they should be above it when the economy is required to cool down.

Where the simplicity of this notion breaks down is in assessing where the neutral rate actually is. There is no firm consensus among economists. Minutes from recent Monetary Policy Committee meetings suggested that neutrality could lie in a range somewhere between 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent, hardly a definitive guide towards deciding where to set interest rates. A growing view though, and one expressed by at least one member of the MPC, is that neutrality is represented by base rates at about 5.5 per cent. The inference is therefore that monetary policy is currently neutral.

This begs the question: if the current stance of monetary policy is neutral, then why is it? The economy is virtually at a standstill with domestic and international factors continuing to pose risks to the downside. Fiscal policy is arguably expansionary, but only mildly so. Moreover, from industry's point of view, sterling is unhelpfully strong. Put plainly, base rates should be at a level that encourages more growth. In the absence of a sudden improvement in economic prospects, this leaves two possibilities. Either rates have significantly further to fall or else the neutral rate is actually higher than 5.5 per cent. We think the latter is the case. Our estimate of neutrality is between 6 per cent and 6.5 per cent, consistent with the average for base rates since the publication of the Bank of England's first *Inflation Report* in early 1993.

Looking at the range of interest rates since then reveals an interesting story. Policy was clearly restrictive in June last year when rates were raised to 7.5 per cent. No argument here. But over the period, base rates have only been below 5.5 per cent between February and September 1994, when Kenneth



Clarke, then Chancellor, set rates at 5.25 per cent. It is nigh on impossible to believe that during these six years monetary policy has been expansionary for just seven months.

Implicitly the Bank's analysis seems to support our overall conclusion. The green fan chart on page 46 of the latest *Inflation Report* shows the Bank's projections of GDP growth on a scenario of rates remaining unchanged at 5.5 per cent. Far from remaining flat, the central path sees the economy gathering steam from an annual rate of expansion of 1 per cent this year to a pace approaching 3 per cent in early 2001. This reinforces our view that the current level of interest rates is generous rather than neutral.

There are two implications of this analysis. First, it should be remembered that current economic circumstances are far from normal and that the reason for rates being as low as they are is to counteract an extraordinary set of deflationary economic shocks. In the near term, interest rates are likely to be brought down again. But at some point, when the economy has begun to stage a more convincing recovery, they will probably need to rise to keep a lid on growth and prevent the build-up of inflationary pressures. This contradicts the often heard view that argues that rates will continue on their downward path over the next couple of years.

Secondly, there is the issue of the UK's membership of the single currency. For sterling to enter safely, the Government recognises that Britain's business cycle must converge with that of the eurozone. This, of course, is true, but to use another a piece of jargon, this condition is necessary but not sufficient. With just one stance of monetary policy applying over the euro area, it is critical that the neutral levels of interest rates in the UK and the core eurozone economies are similar. If they are not, then rates could be acting as a restraint on, say, the German economy while simultaneously creating a boom at home. We would argue that the UK's neutral rate currently lies above that in Germany, partly because of higher inflation, and if this does not change, the UK's participation in EMU could be fraught with difficulties.

Note here the dangerously rapid growth of the Irish economy, made worse by the cuts in rates before it joined the single currency. Over the next three to four years, it is possible that UK inflation and expectations of inflation, are squeezed relative to those in the eurozone. In these circumstances, the neutral rate of interest would fall and help the UK on to the path of convergence. But there is no guarantee that this will occur naturally and the assumption that it will seems to signify the triumph of hope over experience.

Philip Shaw is Chief Economist at Investec in London.

City reserves judgment in spite of mobile phone frenzy

Chris Ayres asks whether the rush for pre-pay deals flatters to deceive

Brazilian footballer Ronaldo proves there is no hiding from the trill of mobile phones as he keeps in touch even on the team bus

Over the past six months, a staggering 4.3 million Britons have bought mobile phones. The evidence is everywhere: from train carriages filled with the din of one-way conversations, to classrooms where children send electronic messages to each other instead of listening to teachers. Wherever there is human life, it seems, the irritating electronic trill of a mobile phone is not far behind.

This growth has been accompanied by an enormous amount of corporate activity. Vodafone, Britain's largest mobile phone operator, is currently orchestrating a £67 billion merger with its American rival Airtouch, while One2One is preparing for an £11 billion flotation or sale. Meanwhile, British Telecom is considering whether or not to buy the 40 per cent of Cellnet it does not already own.

Yet there is evidence to suggest that the mobile phone industry is beginning to question the marketing ploy that has helped to provoke such super-charged growth. The ploy is "pre-pay": a means by which consumers can buy mobile phone handsets for as little as £69.99, then pay for calls in advance using vouchers costing between £5 and £50.

In Italy, pre-pay was seen as the only way to sell phones to a race which loves talking but hates signing pieces of paper. By abolishing contracts and asking customers to pay for calls in advance, Italy's mobile phone operators stumbled upon one of the 20th century's most effective marketing initiatives. Now, nearly 40 per cent of Italians own a mobile phone.

Pre-pay caught-on Britain last year and has since opened up the mobile phone market to millions of consumers who previously felt they could not afford it. Parents have been able to buy their children phones without worrying about huge bills, and consumers with bad credit histories have also been able to take the plunge. The craze for mobile phones was fuelled by high street retailers such as Tesco and Boots stocking the products.

At present, only about 25 per cent of Britons own a mobile phone, but many believe this will double within the next two years. As Alan Lyons, a telecoms analyst at ABN Amro, says: "Mobile phones are clearly going to achieve mass market penetration in the same way that television sets and video recorders have. Everyone will have one."

The percentage of mobile phone users now taking advantage of pre-pay services is astonishing. About 32 per cent of Vodafone's customers are using pre-pay services, compared with just 5.6 per cent last year. Meanwhile, 40 per cent of One2One's customers are using pre-pay, up from 8 per cent last year.

Although the City has reacted positively to the number of customers attracted by pre-pay, it remains uneasy about just how much money they will spend. Industry analysts are also concerned about Britain's army of new mobile phone users abandoning their products when they realise how much they cost to run.

Other questions have been raised over the ability of mobile phones companies to cope with pre-pay's massive success. Vodafone admits that its call centres nearly went into meltdown after being bombarded by calls from pre-pay customers, while customers of Orange have had to put up with 30-minute delays before being connected to the company's customer service staff.

Mr Lyons admits that pre-pay customers are "clearly not as profitable" as contract customers. But he adds: "Of course I would prefer that we could get the current growth rates without pre-pay. But without pre-pay we would be moving up the penetration curve much more slowly."

Not everyone is so optimistic. Mobile phone retailers have seen their margins slashed by up to 40 per cent because of pre-pay phones. Simon Jordan, the brash co-founder of the PocketPhone Shop, which has more than 120 outlets throughout Britain, says: "Pre-pay is massive, but if it's not controlled it could be dangerous. The network operators are getting big numbers of users, but the reality is that they are lower-return users."

He adds that, in his opinion, network operators are already trying to nudge potential customers away from pre-pay services by lowering the price of contracts. "You'll find that standard contracts will be reduced in price," he says. "Already, Vodafone has changed its cheapest contract from £17.99 a month to £14.99. You will see contracts below £10 a month by the end of this year."

According to most analysts, the success of pre-pay will not be decided until Vodafone and Orange publish financial results later this year. Even if analysts conclude that it is a good thing, mobile phone companies will have to work much harder for both their shareholders and customers to stay ahead. The final quarter figures of 1998 — which saw 2.5 million Britons buy mobile phones — caused many analysts to totally rethink their expectations for the sector.

There is now a feeling that there is little more that mobile phone companies can do to impress the City. And, given the huge amount of mobile phone company shares being issued around the world, even the City's enthusiasm for the likes of Vodafone and Orange is subtly waning. All of a sudden, gaining 4.3 million customers in just six months no longer seems such an impressive feat.

HOW THE PHONE GIANTS GREW

COMPANY	Net new UK customers Q1 1999	Increase on number of net new customers gained during Q1 1998	Total new customers now	Percentage on pre-pay
VODAFONE	700,000	307%	5.57m	32%
CELLNET	479,000	444%	4.5m	20%
ORANGE	370,000	216%	2.5m	29%
ONE2ONE	329,000	79%	2.25m	40%

Although in some cases customers should buy pre-pay mobile phone packages, in many cases they should not. The example below shows how if you spend only two hours a month talking on a mobile phone, you could end up paying more by opting for a pre-pay mobile phone than by signing up to a contract.

PRE-PAY:
Handset: £69.99
Cost of calls per minute, using the Orange network: 50p (using £5, £10 or £15 call vouchers)
Total cost of calls per month: £60

CONTRACT (typically 12 months):
Handset: anything from nothing to £299.99 for the Motorola V3688
Connection cost: one-off payment of £35
Monthly line-rental on Talk 60 plan: £29.38
Cost of calls: 60 minutes worth of free calls included in the Orange Talk 60 plan, then prices range from 5p a minute to 30p a minute depending on time and type of call.
Total cost of calls per month: £47.38 maximum
(Source: The Carphone Warehouse April '99 Buyers Guide)

BUSINESS LETTERS

Consumer choice beaten by companies' financial muscle

From Mr David Morgan

Sir, Your lead article of March 24 on the subject of Britain's supermarket operators commented upon the recommendation that "when judging planning applications, local authorities should be asked to bear in mind consumer choice". If only authorities had the luxury of being able to consider this and other relevant criteria, such as local need, the opinions of local residents and the impact of the granting of such applications on local services, to say nothing of traffic flow, congestion and environmental issues.

All of these unfortunately give way to one simple question that local authorities ask themselves — if we turn down a planning application by a major group or company and the matter goes to appeal, how much will it cost us if we lose? All other criteria, particularly the merit of the application and the feelings of local residents, are ignored. Pragmatism rules the day!

Cash-strapped local authorities just do not have the will or the resources to fight the commercial giants over planning applications and such large concerns know that they only have to whisper the words "appeal with costs" in the ear of any hard-pressed planning officer and the authority will inevitably roll over and meekly grant the application, often in the face of vociferous local opposition.

This has happened in Guildford where a large supermarket group has been granted permission to add a petrol station on its site, 300 yards away from another operator. No matter that local residents opposed the application, or that there was clearly no local need for such a facility. The local council judged that it was a waste of their limited financial resources and council taxpayers' money to oppose the application and lose the subsequent appeal, with the subsequent attendant costs. So much for local democracy!

Surely there has to be a better system of considering planning applications so that local authorities are not penalised financially by monstrous appeal costs, which more fairly should be at least shared between the parties rather than heaped upon the local residents through their council tax.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. A. MORGAN,
Pathways,
8a Downsway,
Guildford,
GU1 2YA.

B&B demonstrates cavalier attitude

From Mr Keith Chambers

Sir, A letter from the chairman of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society has gone out attached to a voting form.

It begs the question by commencing: "A small group of members want (sic) your building society to become a bank."

What it should have said is that a requisite number of members to propose a motion has called for a vote to see whether the membership as a whole wants the society to convert: the numbers of those either for or against conversion are surely not yet known — hence the vote.

By manipulating language along the lines of "someone has stolen next year's election results", building society directors have once again shown a cavalier attitude towards members — their employers — and have surely weakened any case they wish to make.

Perhaps they will now have the courage of their convictions and promise that, should a society convert, they will themselves refuse to accept any so-called windfall payout.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH CHAMBERS,
19 Hill Road,
Oakley,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire,
RG23 7HS.

Pru's package



THREE years ago Sir Peter Davis was at the centre of a little spat. The Pru chief executive was highlighted by some investors as the main beneficiary of a long-term incentive plan, which they thought breached the guidelines set for these schemes. This was particularly embarrassing for the Pru as its own Hugh Jones was chairman of the Association of British Insurers' investment committee.

Ultimately, good sense prevailed and the scheme was approved. Now, according to the Pru annual report, the scheme has paid out, giving Sir Peter £812,000 worth of shares, making a total package for 1998 of £1.71 million, including pension. And worth every penny he is, too.



"Look dear. He's just said

SIR TOM FARMER is a man known for his charity — he does bankroll Hibernian football club. So when he decided to launch a Kosovo appeal through his Kwik Fit chain, there were no half measures. Despite the campaign being launched only on Sunday, Sir Tom has already raised £1.5 million, 5,000 bags of clothing and 7,000 cans of food. The first shipment goes out today. You can't shift quicker than a Kwik Fit shipper, as one might say.

Golden Eyes

GERALD RICHARDSON, the entrepreneur who sold his pub and table dancing company to SFI Group two years ago, is back in business. Or strictly speaking, his wife Anne and three other members of his family are back in business, as Mr Richardson himself, who stayed on at SFI until last year to oversee the For Your Eyes Only table dancing operation...

...vember and is prevented from setting up in competition.

His wife is to open a new chain of strip joints — sorry, table dancing venues — called Golden Eyes, with a site already earmarked close to Heathrow. Although this does not break the terms of his contract, I understand that Tony Hill, the SFI boss, is none too pleased. But Mr Richardson tells me: "It's nothing to do with me what my family do. My wife is an independent, strong-willed woman."

SO FAREWELL Roy Bishko, who always moaned about Tie Rack being called a niche retailer. What's in a name, he laments: "If Karl Marx had not come up with the word communism we'd all have been a lot better

Solar suspense

TRAVELLERS to Cornwall know there are only two routes into the county. One is across Bodmin moor and the other is over the Tamar Suspension Bridge. So it is with some concern that I report that Kvaerner, the accident-prone Norwegian builder, has signed a £24 million deal to widen the bridge in time for the millennium.

But isn't there an even more significant event occurring in Cornwall before then — August's solar eclipse. My man in the hard hat assures me that the work will not even close one lane of the bridge during peak hours. So if you are stuck in a 20-mile-tailback, you know who to blame.

AG BARR has trod on a few corns while promoting its undrinkable soft drink, Irn-Bru. Its advert, featuring a cow saying: "When I'm a burger I want to be washed down with Irn-Bru", led the Advertising Standards Authority's list of most complained about ads of 1998. A total of 589 people objected, 418 more than the next most objectionable — a TCP advert featuring a man being eaten by a tiger. The ASA did not uphold any of the complaints.

Foster's face

TALKING about Caledonian refreshment companies, Scottish Courage will today reveal the new face of Foster's lager. In the past the brewer — ber Nectar - hired the former presenter of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*, Denise van Outen, as its first Foster's "ambassador", followed by Kelly Brook, who then succeeded Ms van Outen at *The Big Breakfast*. The new Foster's face will be announced with a massive promotion, which will send 350 Foster's drinkers to Sydney for the millennium. I am sworn to secrecy as to who she is, but if you were to guess that she is Australian, is the younger sister of a supermodel and was the unwitting star of an infamous home video in her home country, you might not be a million miles from the truth.

JASON NISSÉ
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Kelly Brook has been a

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-do- NAV to Mar 19	116 050	116 0506	...	..
US Eqy Safeguard	99.51	105.73	+ 1 94	
Cash	956 62	961 40		4 50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	457.52	496 73	+ 8 34	1 19
UK Small Cos	98.27	105 11	- 0 12	0.34
FTSE 250 Index	112 01	119 00	- 0.27	1 95
Geared UK Index	#25 668	#27 0961	- 0.91	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.27	91 33	- 0 02	5 76
Monthly Inc	43 96	47 021	+ 0.26	8 58
International Funds				
American Gen	400 70	423.39	+14.54	
American Strat	186.25	198.67	+ 6.90	
JG US Index	#31 837	#33 542	+ 1.71	4.50
European Gen	450 02	475 79	+11 93	0 09
European Strat	213.13	227 96	+ 4 91	
Japan Gen	121.32	127.99	- 0 35	
Asia Pacific	68.59	73.25	+ 1.67	1 72
Pacific Strat	97.95	104 75	- 1 35	
Greater China	172.36	184 35	+ 7.00	
Latin America	72.02	78.89	- 2 78	
Int Growth	207 04	220 86	- 5.24	...
Balanced Eurotol	187.01	193.79		
Global Strategy	51 72	55 31	- 0 99	
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
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Balanced Acc	86 80	92 34		1 47
Balanced Inc	77 76	82 72		1 47
Brit Excell	140.10	149.10		1 90
Brit Fndmtls Acc	170 00	180 80		3.57
Brit Fndmtls Inc	105 40	112.10		3.57
Europe	577 50	614 40r		0.76
General Acc	1027.00	1092 00r		2.09
General Inc	815 80	867 10r		2.09
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	270 20	285 40r		5.22
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	104 90	110 90r		5.22
Global Opps	140 90	149 80		0 32
Higher Inc Acc #	102.40			
Higher Inc Inc #	102 40			
Japan Acc	40 15	42.71		
Nth America	564 60	600 70		
Pac Basin Acc	295 40	314 30		0 66
UK Growth Acc	711.90	757 40		1 75
UK Growth Inc	441 00	469.20		1 75
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	69 80	74.36		
Euro Inc Inc #	102 10			5 56
High Yld Inc	125 90	134 00r		2 46
Inc & Gth Inc	125.30	132 90		1.88
Pacific Gth Port	35 65	37 92r		0.64
UK Income Inc	88.56	94 19		1 62
UK Smaller Cos #	105 40			
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	158.80	168.50r	- 0.30	5 64
High Inc Equity	249 30	267.20r	- 1.70	2 79
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American Growth	700 60	747.80	+25 20	0 01
Asian Pacific	209 30	223 90	- 4 10	1 10
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INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

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I get a buzz from the paintball wizards



A day in the life of Kate Menniss, PA to Denis McCourt, managing director of Party Express and Awesome Events, and to Odette Penwarden, sales development manager for Awesome Events

I arrive at our office in Victoria, London, at 8.45am, make a cup of tea then check the e-mail. We receive up to 50 e-mail inquiries and bookings a day from all over the world. Then confirm the meetings that Denis and Odette have today, with clients, tour operators or to view venues. Then have my daily ten-minute briefing with them both — they are often out of the office — before moving on to their dictation tapes from yesterday's meetings.

This takes a while because I am interrupted by phone calls all day. Denis is not here to take calls so I have to know what is going on and take bookings and answer client queries. Many of our callers are from overseas and are calling to organise incentive groups and conferences.

11.30am: Denis and Odette phone in for messages, and Denis asks me to send out brochures, and transparencies to clients who want to use them in their own brochures. He also asks me to write short adverts to go with them.

12.30pm: Grab a quick sandwich. I have worked here for eight months; it is an extremely sociable job and the atmosphere is buzzing. There are always lots of events going on, which I am invited to. I have been to the Party Bus nightclub tour, a James Bond night and paintballing with Awesome Events. I am getting married this year, and some friends are arranging my hen weekend through Awesome Events — though I have no idea what will be taking place.

I'm quite adventurous and have booked to go sky-diving on our honeymoon in Florida.

I try to work on my own projects during the afternoon. I am working with a website designer at the moment, redesigning the Party Express site and a new site for Awesome Events. My role has really developed since I first started and I'm now involved with such things as marketing, and have just been on our stand for two days at the British Travel Trade Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. I am also setting up databases for both companies. It is very busy and hard work, but really challenging and rewarding.

3pm: Adjust the colours and put the finishing touches to a voucher wallet I am designing on my computer. This is to contain the tickets, maps, itineraries and everything else the client needs for the event that they have booked. I thought it would be a good idea to design special envelopes so the client has everything available; they are also more eye-catching.

4pm: Do the weekly invoicing to our tour operators and chase up any outstanding invoices, then check through the pile of things people have put on Denis's desk, taking away and dealing with things he does not need to see. Then I call him with any important messages.

6pm: Go to help out at a wine-tasting organised by Awesome Events for a financial company.

● *Kate Menniss was talking to Amanda Loose.*

Post's done. Time for a chocolate bar and sushi

We know that you hoard food in your office drawer, says **Amy Anderson.** But which snacks are the best?



JON RILEY/TONY STONE

Eating on the hoof: although office grazing is not necessarily bad, choosing healthy snacks is vital

Your top drawer at work is meant for diaries, pens and Tippex — but according to a study of UK office staff, it is more likely to contain the better part of a supermarket snack counter. The study of "top-drawer grazing" by Office Angels reveals that food hoarded ranges from chocolate and crisps to yoghurt and ready-made meals.

Although an encouraging 42 per cent of those surveyed opted for fruit as their preferred snack, 57 per cent were more partial to chocolate or biscuits. One in ten admitted stockpiling snacks in case they felt peckish.

In the drinks department, one in ten of us stores herbal tea in our drawer, while 31 per cent prefer standard teabags. The most popular drink to hoard, though, is coffee.

When asked how many times they dipped into their snack supply, 75 per cent of those questioned said that they "grazed" once or twice a day, while many others admitted eating at their desks at least three times daily.

Men are just as tempted to subsist on snacks as women, it seems, but less likely to share their food with others. And when office staff of either sex run out of snacks, they are likely to raid a colleague's supply. One in five staff in the survey confessed to filching food.

So why *do* so many of us keep a snack drawer? Hunger is the obvious explanation, but other reasons that emerged from the survey were boredom, stress relief and using food to boost concentration. The last of these is debatable, however — research carried out at Middlesex University found that the smells of chocolate and spearmint distracted people from their work.

Rather distasteful was the revelation that more than one in ten of us stores food at work that is well past its sell-by date. Office drawers contain such delights as rotting bananas, unrefrigerated yoghurt, soft rice-cakes, bars of mouldy chocolate and curling sandwiches.



A straw between chores: herbal tea is better than fizzy drinks

Odd eating habits? We have those, too, Office Angels reveals. Chocolate and cheese-and-onion crisp sandwiches are just the start. Other staff admit dunking toast in their hot drinks, munching on blocks of marzipan, consuming yoghurt with their fingers and wolfing three chocolate bars in rapid succession. Many people confessed to swallowing junk food at work that they would never eat at home.

Office "grazing" is clearly a deeply ingrained habit, with chocolate emerging as the single most popular comfort food. But it can be expensive: 80 per cent of us spend between £1 and £5 a week on snacks, some more than £10.

The nutritionist Kate Stringer suggests that for those in search of healthy snacking options, the best bets are carbohydrate foods (bread, cereals) that will help to keep your blood sugar levels constant; fresh fruit; unsalted nuts (in moderation); sunflower seeds (rich in zinc); orange juice (vitamin C); and, if you really must, a little dark organic chocolate (plenty of iron).

Needless to say, cigarettes, alcohol and chocolate in excess are not good for your health. Much better are bean salads, tuna, chicken, cottage cheese and yoghurt, for instance, with herbal or fruit tea. And whether you snack healthily or not, take a stroll around the block before lunch.

But if that is healthy office grazing, the habit can lead to odd, or at least mildly antisocial, food choices.

For PR executive Emily Morris, 22, the perfect snack is — fish sticks. "I work in a room with just four other people and they are used to the smell of my fish sticks by now," she says, "but when a new person comes in, they put their hands over their nose. I know I could put them in the fridge, but having them in my drawer means that I can snack away all day without having to move from my chair."

Kate Stringer says: There is nothing wrong with snacking on fish sticks — they are much better for you than chocolate. But I am not sure that keeping them in a drawer is a good idea. Offices get very warm and by not refrigerating her snacks, Emily is putting herself at risk from food poisoning."

Claire Coward, a 25-year-old marketing assistant, prefers to keep her drawer full of fruit, cereal bars, yoghurt and bottled water. "I have quite a stressful job," she says, "so I need foods that keep my energy up. The sugar rush that chocolate gives you is very short-lived and you end up craving more."

Kate Stringer says: "Claire has the right outlook. And as she cannot do much exercise during the day, it also means that she is not exposing herself to weight gain."

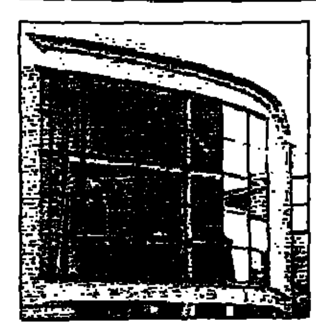
TIME SAVERS

A weekly guide to keyboard skills

by Chris Ward

☐ YOU may already know that you can run various programs from the Start/Run command in Windows 95 — sysedit is a good one for modifying your basic system files such as autoexec.bat, config.sys and so on. It may also be easier to use this to install a program from a floppy disk — type a:\setup.exe or a:\install.exe or whatever. You can also use Start/Run to open documents, though — try it by just typing readme.txt and it will open your Windows 95 Read Me file. You can use it for other documents, too, although you might get fed up with typing long paths to those more obscure files.

☐ IT IS handy to be able to paste an Excel chart into PowerPoint sometimes — just right-click on it in Excel, left-click on Copy and then Paste it into your PowerPoint presentation (Ctrl-V, right-click and choose Paste, or left-click on Edit/Paste). Once you have done this, you can have some fun with the chart by animating the various components using PowerPoint's Ungroup facility. Left-click on the chart to select it and then click on Draw/Ungroup. Press Ctrl-A to select all the components, then hold down the Shift key while you deselect all the components you do not want to animate with a left mouse click. When you have finished, let go of the Shift key and click on Draw/Group. Now right-click on the chart and choose Custom Animation. Left-click on Timing/Animate, select the components to animate, left-click the Effects tab and choose the tabs you want. Now you can right-click the chart and choose Custom Animation. Click the Timing tab and select Animate. Select the components to animate and then click the Effects tab. Select the animation effect you want for each component. To see how the effect looks, click Preview. When you have finished, click OK to close the dialogue box and save your work.



VISUAL ART

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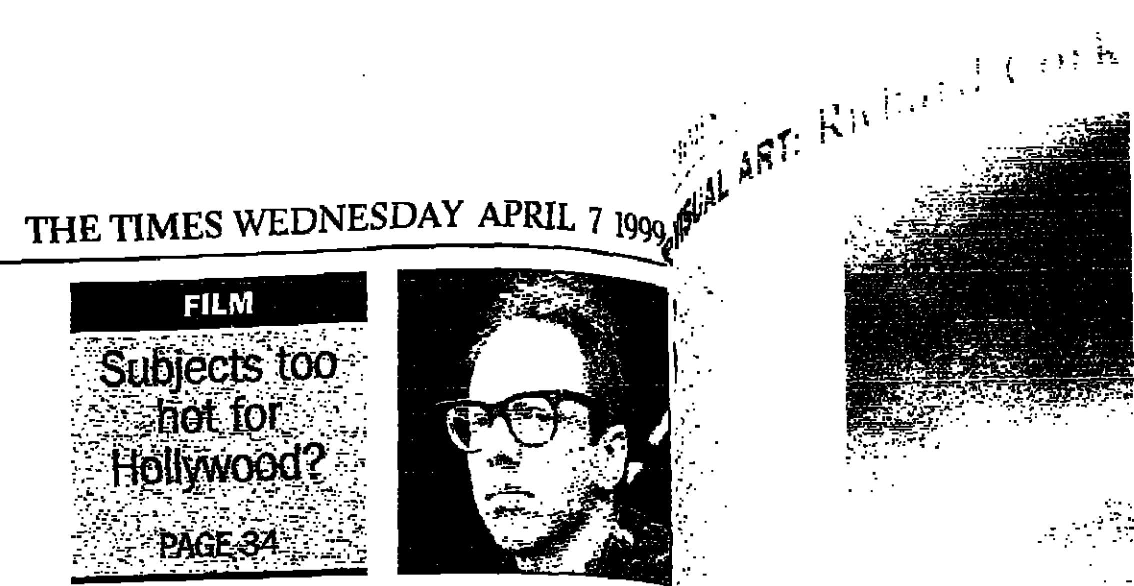
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THE TIMES ARTS

FILM

Subjects too hot for Hollywood?

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A chance to be perfectly Candide

THEATRE: Stephen Sondheim tells **Michael Owen** why he is helping to restage Bernstein

When Leonard Bernstein's musical *Candide* was on its pre-Broadway try-out in Boston in 1956, the show was in trouble. The creative team, including the director Sir Tyrone Guthrie and the playwright Lillian Hellman, who wrote the book, looked impressive on paper but their contributions were refusing to gel. Bernstein sent for a young lyricist who was working with him on another project to offer his advice. It was Stephen Sondheim.

"I was 25, and supposed to tell people of the calibre of Guthrie and Hellman what they were doing wrong," he recalls, still awed at the presumptuous role he had been invited to fulfil.

Bernstein was still drafting in new songs as the production approached its Broadway first night — and they sounded familiar to Sondheim. The composer had been working simultaneously on *Candide* and *West Side Story*, for which Sondheim had been hired to provide the lyrics. "Lennie was switching songs from one show to the other. They were flying all over the place."



DAVID HARTLEY



SUZIE E. MAEDER

A pocket full of rhyme: lyricist Stephen Sondheim (left) has had a long and sometimes tortuous relationship with the various attempts to stage Leonard Bernstein's (right) musical adaptation of *Candide*

One Hand, One Heart had been intended for *Candide* under the title of *One* but ended up in *West Side Story*; the melody of *Officer Krupke* was pinched from a *Candide* number called *Where Does It Get You in the End*; and another song called *Happy We* went in the opposite direction, from *West Side Story* to *Candide*.

But, despite all the activity, the show was not a success in New York and closed after just 73 performances. Sondheim says: "The reason was simple: the director, the book and the score had nothing to do with each other. Hellman had written it as a black comedy, Lennie's score was basically pastiche and Guthrie had directed it like a wedding cake."

Sondheim now says he was reluctant to become involved in either show. "I was a young man and eager to get on with my own music but Oscar Hammerstein said *West Side Story* was too good an opportunity to miss. He persuaded me. My suggestion for *Candide* was that Michael Flanders, of Flanders and Swann, should write the lyrics. He would have been perfect. But he was wheelchair-bound and it became impossible."

Bernstein's show has since then enjoyed as picaresque a journey as Voltaire's eponymous hero and now, more than 40 years later, Sondheim is still active on the sidelines as the musical comes up for a radical reworking at the National Theatre under the director John Caird — "assisted by Trevor Nunn", as the credits have it.

It was Caird who secured the rights, persuaded the various estates involved to allow him to revise the show and sought new lyrics from the American songwriter Richard Wilbur, who worked on the original 1956 version, and one new set of lyrics from Sondheim. It was for a number called *Life is Happiness Indeed* sung by Maximilian, the brother of Candide's love, Cunegonde.

"I can't say it was fun," says Sondheim. "I didn't know all the nuances they were seeking and I had a lot of questions but I didn't want to get involved in endless phone discussions and I couldn't get over there. But John Caird asked me to take a second look and I was happy to comply. My original version dwelt on the character's vanity but they wanted to bring out his aristocratic qualities. I could see the sense."

After its Broadway failure, *Candide* managed a short West End run, in which the title role was taken by Denis Quilley, who now plays the elderly Martin in the new revival. Bernstein continued working on the show: it played in various stock companies in America but had to wait until 1972 before it came back to wider public recognition.

That was when Hal Prince devised a ground-breaking production, first given in a studio at the Brooklyn Academy of Arts then transferring to Broadway as the hit of the season. The Voltaire original was submitted to a celebratory, anarchic performance style, there was a new book by Hugh Wheeler and Sondheim was again re-engaged.

"That show was great, it was real fun. Hal asked me to do an opening number for him. The first thing I suggested was that he get Lennie's permission to use any of the tunes that had been written for the show but not used before. I ended up writing the lyrics for three new songs."

But Bernstein felt Prince's production, despite its public success, had drifted too far from his original intention. He increasingly felt it belonged in an opera house; he rescored it for operatic voices and it was staged by New York City Opera in 1982. Six years later Jonathan Miller directed it for Scottish Opera with a new libretto by the late John Wells. It also enjoyed a successful run at the Old Vic.

When Nunn and Caird embarked on their plan to create an ensemble company occupying the Olivier in a series of themed productions, they looked for a musical with something to say about contemporary life and chose *Candide* with the intention of restoring as much as possible of Voltaire's searching philosophy. Caird says: "*Candide* is a comedy with a serious moral theme about issues that are relevant today. We were looking for works that would make people ask what is the morality that helps you to live your life in a time of war, greed and capitalism at the end of the 20th century. *Candide* fits the bill."

While Nunn concentrated on *Troilus and Cressida*, Caird picked up the reins on *Candide*. He has rewritten the book himself, reordered many of the songs, switching some from one character to another, built up some minor characters and given the show a stronger through-line.

He says: "This show has had a very chequered existence. I believe it has always been a series of wonderful numbers but without a lot of dramatic coherence. That's the area we are concentrating on."

Daniel Evans, who played Peter Pan, will be Candide; Simon Russell Beale is doubling as Pangloss and Voltaire himself, who has been brought in as narrator; Clive Rowe is Cacambo and Alex Kelly is Cunegonde.

On John Napier's multipurpose Olivier Theatre set, the production will not deploy lavish effects, and the new orchestrations, which do not require operatic calibre voices, will be played by an unseen 14-piece band.

Sondheim does not expect to see it until his visit in June as he is working on his own new musical, *Wise Guys*, which Sam Mendes will direct for a January opening on Broadway. "It's a small show but, like *Citizen Kane*, it is a birth-to-grave story following two legendary American brothers called Meisner who were born at the turn of the century."

● *Candide opens at the National Theatre on Tuesday (0171-452 3000)*

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RAYMOND PICKARD



Age: 16.

Profession: Actor.

Double whammy: Next week he adds two major credits to an already impressive CV. On Sunday night he plays the autistic son of ex-footballer Robson Green in *Rhinoceros*, a two-hour ITV drama. Three days later he makes his stage debut as Billy Casper, schoolboy hero of *Kes*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

What's the TV role? "My character in *Rhinoceros* accidentally gets on the wrong train and ends up alone in the Welsh mountains. Robson's always one step behind in trying to track me down."

Pure coincidence: "During filming, Robson and I were talking about great movies and he asked me if I'd seen the film of *Kes*. When I said no he promised to send it to me on video. Two days after the tape arrived my agent sent me the script for the stage version. What are the odds?"

Where did the road to *Kes* begin? "I grew up on Merseyside but went to Intake High School in Leeds because it had a good reputation for drama." A casting director visited the school in search of "a skinny kid with a Yorkshire accent" to play Linus Roache's streetwise little brother in the BBC wartime drama, *Seaforth*. "When they picked me I was so excited I went round telling everybody at the school — even my worst enemies."

How did he end up on *Auntie's Bloomers*? "In *Seaforth* there was a scene with me and this dog sitting on top of some sandbags. The dog's leash was around my wrist when somebody in the crew opened a packet of meat-flavoured crisps, the dog sniffed them and ran off, dragging me across the ground. They kept filming."

Where else has he appeared? In a US television version of *The Canterville Ghost*, and in the 1997 film of *The Borrowers*.

What effect has all this shooting had on his education? "I used to have a private tutor but I've now left school. I might go back to college to take A levels, but for the moment I just want to keep on working and put some money away so that I can eventually fund myself through drama school."

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on an installation that reinterprets *Vertigo* through its visceral music

Hitching a dizzy ride



Hand-eye co-ordination: James Conlon conducts the Paris Opéra orchestra in Bernard Herrmann's evocative score for *Vertigo*, from Douglas Gordon's *Feature Film*

Stumbling through the darkness of the Atlantis Gallery in East London, we suddenly discover that a precipitous drop separates us from the screen where Douglas Gordon's *Feature Film* is projected. Halted by a barrier, we stare down into the shadows and realise the aptness of the void below. For Gordon has decided to tackle Hitchcock's *Vertigo* in this, his first London exhibition since winning the Turner Prize three years ago. And the dizzying fear suffered by James Stewart, as he climbs a belltower in pursuit of the elusive Kim Novak, is echoed by the unease we feel on this lofty platform.

Our disorientation is increased by the images on the screen. Unlike his previous homage to Hitchcock, a 1993 *tour de force* called *24 Hour Psycho*, Gordon's new film contains no visible trace of *Vertigo* itself. He concentrates instead on James Conlon, the charismatic *chef d'orchestre* of the Paris Opéra, conducting a performance of Bernard Herrmann's score for *Vertigo*. Gordon does not even offer a glimpse of the 100 musicians under Conlon's control. The face, arms and hands of the conductor are all we see, and they prove mesmerising in their own right.

Conlon responds to the heightened emotions animating Herrmann's score with athletic sensitivity. The sounds seem to run through his body with the force of an electrical discharge, reaching a climax in the quicksilver motion of fingers alert to every musical nuance. Even when the orchestra lapses into silence, during the periods when *Vertigo*'s manic story develops without Herrmann's aid, Conlon does not allow his involvement to lessen. Gordon's camera lingers on his face for a while, and the tears in the conductor's eyes show the depth of his engagement with the unfolding narrative.

As a result, Gordon succeeds in presenting an audacious alternative to the experience normally offered by *Vertigo*. In a conventional cinematic presentation, Herrmann's contribution is always subservient to the overall impact of Hitchcock's directorial vision. Audiences may even remain unaware of its exceptional potency, and give Hitchcock unqualified credit for *Vertigo*'s ability to sear the imagination. By slicing off Herrmann's work and holding it up for inspection, Gordon enables us to assess it with far greater clarity. And by showing how ardently Conlon responds to the score, the full extent of its capacity to ensnare us in *Vertigo*'s nightmarish convolutions is revealed.

Anyone familiar with Gordon's previous work will appreciate how his fascination with Conlon's movements relates to earlier concerns. Conlon's exclamatory manual gestures reminded me in particular of a short, disturbing work that Gordon based on a film showing a hand endlessly repeating the act of firing a gun. He called it *Trigger-Finger*, and the neurosis it exposed is far removed from Conlon's infinitely supple responses. All the same, Gordon uses hands in both these contrasted works to disclose a surprising amount about the emotional condition of the men themselves.

Nor does he stop there. As we gaze down at the screen enlivened by Conlon's exertions, our eyes gradually notice another film flickering at the far end of the vast Atlantis hall. A staircase half-hidden in the gloom enables us to descend. The distant film turns out to be *Vertigo* itself, far smaller in size and projected modestly on to a wall by equipment resting on the floor. The almost offhand presentation suggests that Gordon intends it as a footnote to the principal offering. But once I started watching *Vertigo*, it would not let me go. My eyes kept moving between the two rival images, eager to follow Hitchcock's narrative and yet determined to see how Conlon dealt with the music filling the entire gallery with its doomed Mahlerian disquiet.

Gordon makes the experience still more complex by robbing *Vertigo* of its dialogue. The actors mouth soundlessly at each other, just as they did in the films Hitchcock would have seen during his youth. But there is scant reliance on the melodramatic acting that so often fuelled silent movies. The absence of dialogue made me aware of Hitchcock's restraint as a director — Stewart and, supremely, Novak are for the most part reined-in. Apart from scenes of high anxiety, like the dream sequence where Stewart is tortured by neurotic memory-flashes, the actors are notable for their stillness, their reluctance to rely on rhetorical flourishes of any kind.

In such a hushed context, where a substantial court scene reduces all its players to a notably undemonstrative level, the return of the music has an extraordinary impact. At one point, after a bout of soundless conversation, Stewart re-enters a room in distress. Herrmann's score ambushes our senses, lending the actor's anguish an intensity it would not otherwise have attained.

Hitchcock may well have found his composer too emotionally effusive: there is undoubtedly a clash between Herrmann's unabashed late Romanticism and the understatement dictating so much of Hitchcock's visual style. Against the odds, though, an unlikely chemistry is established between the two men's approaches. Without Herrmann, Hitchcock might well look stilted at times. And shorn of Hitchcock's rigour, Herrmann could easily sound embarrassingly lush. When they come together, the fusion goes a long way towards explaining why *Vertigo* exerts such a compulsive, lingering hold over us.

Ultimately, however, Gordon's installation sustains our attention through the interplay between *Vertigo* and the film he has made. The longer I looked at Conlon conducting, the more I realised that he seemed to inhabit a Hitchcockian world. There is, for one thing, a strange resemblance sometimes between details of Conlon's frowning face and Anthony Perkins in *Psycho*. Although he is manifestly in charge of an orchestra, Conlon becomes one of the characters in the complex, multilayered drama played out here. When Stewart's haunted face is caught in close-up, enmeshed within a spider's web at the height of the nightmare sequence, he looks utterly alone. Conlon likewise seems marooned in a nocturnal void during the moments when the camera rests on his features for a while. He appears overcome by the same autumnal melancholy that afflicts Stewart in his futile search for the unattainable Novak. And Conlon's ability to identify so strongly with this sadness helps him to locate it in Herrmann's score, ensuring that the music is sometimes as overwhelmingly insistent as the Mahler soundtrack deployed by Visconti throughout *Death in Venice* — another film dominated by the doomed pursuit of a destructive infatuation.

Gordon does not make it easy to absorb the richness of the relationship between Hitchcock, Herrmann, Conlon and his own equally obsessive art. Only repeated viewings would disclose everything worth extracting from their interaction; and the absence of seating in this austere hall obliged me to end up squatting on the floor, swivelling from one screen to the next and back again in an attempt to absorb the array of competing images on offer. It is a strenuous experience, and yet the inordinate demands made by Gordon end up tallying with the ordeal Stewart forces himself to undergo during the film.

All the disparate elements combine most arrestingly in the final minutes, when Stewart bullies Novak into ascending the tower one more time. The brutality of his struggle with her is surprising and then alarming. Herrmann's music responds to the challenge with hectic conviction, while Conlon attains a frenzy of gestures on the other screen. As Stewart goads Novak up the stairwell, the conductor's hands stab, claw, thrust and swoop through the inkiness in blurred white arcs of agitation. Conlon drives his orchestra onwards with the single-minded vehemence Hitchcock unleashed on his actors as they stagger to the top. They are all caught up in the same demented trajectory. And nothing, not even the swift intervention of the nun who sounds the bell, can prevent the tragedy from ending in freefall.

● Feature Film, *an Artangel/Beck's commission, is at the Atlantis Gallery, 146 Brick Lane, London E1 (0171-336 6803) until May 3*

Toasts and tears

The one day devoted to the arts and culture of Northern Ireland during the Barbican's Irish festival *From The Heart* came at a pregnant moment on Easter Day, amid the knowledge that the peace process was about to enter a solemn week.

Yet with Tommy Makem heading the bill, it was never going to be a sombre occasion. The 66-year-old veteran began performing with the Clancy Brothers in the late 1950s and his style has changed little since. His jocular presence and mixture of sentimental songs such as *Wild Mountain Thyme* and drinking ditties such as *Nancy Whiskey* make him the archetypal stage Irishman and his act has gone down a storm with Irish-Americans for decades. Here his comic patter seemed badly off-key.

Most of the rest of the programme hit a better

FESTIVAL

note. An afternoon concert by Voices for Peace, a children's choir drawn from both Catholic and Protestant communities, was full of hope, even if the choice of standards such as *Amazing Grace* was unadventurous.

Elsewhere a workshop explained the differences between the musical traditions of Ulster and the Republic and both Makem and Davy Hammond, who shared the main bill, offered a more song-based style far removed from the familiar Celtic laments and jigs and reels. When Hammond sang *The Banks of the Bann* and Makem offered *As I Walked Out*, there seemed to be a closer connection with the ballad tradition of Scottish folk music.

Yet the best moments came from Kentucky's Jean Richie, who joined them on stage. The foremost living exponent of Appalachian mountain music, her high, clear voice belied her 76 years and her repertoire illustrated how traditional Irish song has been preserved in remote American rural communities in an almost pure form.

In her youth Richie learnt dozens of songs from her family of Irish-Scottish descent and first travelled to Ireland in the early 1950s to trace their origins, during which time she met the young Makem. It made for a pleasing symmetry and she seemed to represent a frail but obdurate link with a dying tradition.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

A cultural prize for Dundee

Andrew Gibbon Williams visits the new Dundee Contemporary Arts centre

ALAN RICHARDSON



Scottish success: Tony Cragg's boat becalmed in Dundee's new contemporary arts centre

Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) is set to do for Dundee what the new Guggenheim did for Bilbao. This £9 million cultural flagship is adventurous in concept and brave in design.

The building has been designed to facilitate a unique concept. Edinburgh-based Richard Murphy Architects was faced with a potentially confusing brief: to design a building which would satisfy the demands of a tripartite client, ie, the new art-led company spearheading the development (DCA), Dundee City Council and Dundee University.

While the council desired another facility to complement the Dundee Repertory Theatre and the McManus Galleries, the university — more specifically, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design which, since 1996, has formed part of it — demanded a state-of-the-art research facility, a kind of art laboratory. DCA itself wanted ample gallery space and accommodation for the back-up paraphernalia essential to any contemporary art venue.

A mere two years since the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund voted the lion's share of the finance, some £5.4 million, Murphy has managed to satisfy each party. There is a fabulously equipped print workshop, an artist-in-residence flat and studio space, a large café area with exterior terraces, and two small-scale, luxury cinemas.

The core of Murphy's scheme is a renovated former coal warehouse which rises up behind a cliff face from reclaimed land that forms Dundee's desolate waterfront. At the level where this reaches one of the city's principal arteries, the Nethergate, this has been extended by a new, smaller block set at an oblique angle to the old structure. At street level a severe, prow-like structure projects alongside a small piazza, the entire street frontage making a dramatic interjection between a late 18th-century Lord Provost's residence and an early 19th-century Roman Catholic cathedral.

Inside, the wit and ingenuity of the design are immediately apparent. An interior avenue, off which are located an activity area and information desks, leads directly into the vast top-lit exhibition space (something rather grander than the usual white box), while a parallel staircase descends to the restaurant, visual research centre, print workshop, cinemas, and artists' facilities.

But Murphy's most impressive achievement is the way he has fulfilled his declared intention to integrate the individual elements of his design. No one activity is hidden from another, so that from the central thoroughfare you are aware of the galleries; from the galleries, the café area; from the café area, set at the juncture of the two blocks, almost everything. The larger cinema must be the only one in the country which allows you to see out. A shuttered window offers views across the Tay before and after every film.

What this means is that in contrast to so many comparable complexes, the creative work going on is no secret activity behind closed doors. Visitors popping in for a snack enjoy the feeling of being caught up in the artistic process, while artists and researchers should benefit from the feedback of public interest.

The inaugural exhibition, entitled *Prime*, includes virtually nothing which might be construed as dumbing down. A video of and accompanying detritus from a Joseph Beuys performance; a scattering of life-size dead crows sculpted in bronze by Kiki Smith; an enormous wall-mounted, polished steel disc by Anish Kapoor, conceived as much in acoustic terms as in visual terms; and Tony Cragg's extraordinary clinker-constructed boat covered, porcupine-like, with hooks. Straight art is virtually confined to homegrown talent: Callum Innes's spare, latter-day action painting.

The director, Andrew Nairne, admits to having included Warhol's screen-printed "Jackies" to cajole the public with a "name". But his personal taste makes it unlikely that popular artists are going to get much of a look-in. Next in line is the former Turner Prize candidate, Ian Davenport, whose stridently coloured, poured paint on fibreboard works form his first one-man show in a public gallery.

How far-reaching an impact this pioneering institution will have on Dundee depends on the continuing generosity of sponsors such as Atlantic Telecom, whose £100,000 supports an education programme for the next two years.

● *Dundee Contemporary Arts, 152 Nethergate, Dundee (01382 432290)*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

SOME men have skin as supple and sensual as a woman's. The curves of their bodies seem made for the caress. And **Robert Mapplethorpe** understands this. His lens typically roams the contours of the corporeal landscape. But now, marking the tenth anniversary of Mapplethorpe's death, this retrospective traces the attraction to sinuous line and texture which bred the artist's homoerotic sensibilities. Although some of his later, aggressively sexual works are displayed, the earlier photographs reveal a subtler sensitivity. The curl of an orchid echoes the clean-cut curves of a vase, collages flirt with veils and layers. But the desire to outrage which made Mapplethorpe one of the touchstones of censorship was always latent. Kitsch religious iconography, cold sadomasochism and flowers that unfurl like sex organs became his subjects at an early age.
Hamiltons, 13 Carlos Place, W1 (0171-499 9493), until May 1

☐ **Georg Baselitz**, the painting world's equivalent of the heavy-metal thrasher, is known by many for no other reason than that he hangs his paintings upside down. "It's the best way to liberate representation from context," he explains. But in his first London show for five years he aims to touch an instinctive level of consciousness in a rather different way. There is no right way up in this series of seven paintings. Torsos are impetuously jumbled in what looks for all the world like some billowing daisy-printed duvet. Baselitz plays with the transparency of pattern, of a whitened surface veiling brighter layers of paint below, to shed new light on his vision of a "painting behind the canvas". Where before he tried to reach this impossible image by hacking like a wood carver through layers of paint, he now opens up the surface of his works like a window. And the carelessly sketched figures suddenly seem more like the doodles which a child might draw with a finger in the mist of a pane.
Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 24 Dering St, W1 (0171-499 4100) until April 24



Robert Mapplethorpe's *Untitled (Gingham)* of 1970

☐ *Harold's Always Saying Goodbye* is the title of **Julian Schnabel**'s new show. What does it mean? How does it relate to the pictures? The gallery hasn't a clue. Schnabel may not have either. But perhaps this bewilderment is the best point from which to start looking at the great self-publicist's four new paintings. Oils, resin and spray paint scrawl over large, ugly-framed canvases, as though each had been applied by a different hand. Greens are applied with whipped and knotted sheets of cloth. Reds are scribbled across them like meaningless graffiti. For a moment you imagine there are muscular studies or drawings of drapery in the imprinted patterns. You search for words in the writing strokes. But inspect the canvases more closely and they dissolve into a mess. Perhaps Shnabel is taunting the viewer: if I, with my personality, do it then it's art. But if you did this, it would amount to nothing more than a scrawl. If so, then these paintings untease the boundaries between the personal and impersonality.
Timothy Taylor, 1 Bruton Place, W1 (0171-409 3344) until May 1

☐ HISTORY left **Jack Yeats** overshadowed by his famous poet brother. But for the Irish he has always been an importantly nationalistic figure. The races, the boxing ring, dark Irish storms and tall Dublin houses are the subjects of an expressionistic painter who loved colour above anything. But this mixed and not particularly distinguished little show reveals a man who dispersed his energy into too many styles.
Theo Waddington Fine Art, 25 Cork St, W1 (0171-494 1584), until April 30

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

■ **LISTINGS**
The CBSO in Finnish mood

ARTS

■ **TOMORROW**
The latest films reviewed

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

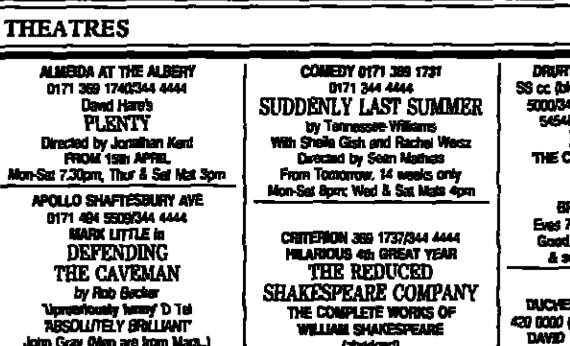
LONDON

ROBERTO ZUCCO: James Macdonald's acclaimed Stratford production of Bernard-Marie Koltes's mesmerising drama. Zubin Varla plays the killer hero.
Pit (0171-638 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN: Tadaaki Otaka conducts this impressive band of rising talent in a showcase concert featuring three Russian composers: Rachmaninov, Liadov and Mussorgsky.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

PHILHARMONIA: In this gala concert in aid of cancer research Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in an evening of works by Bernstein, Gershwin and Rimsky-Korsakov. With soloists, Peter Jablonski, piano, and Christopher Warren-Green, violin.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BRIDGE QUARTET: These champions of English composers turned musical sleuths give the UK premiere of the third and and fourth movements of Delius's 1888 String Quartet, recently discovered on microfilm in the British Library. The evening also features quartets by Schubert and Frank Bridge.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141).


A Delius rediscovery is played at the Wigmore

ELSEWHERE

BASINGSTOKE: The acclaimed pianist **Peter Donohoe** continues his journey through Beethoven's Piano Sonatas here with a performance of Op 13, *Pathetique*, contrasted with Op 14, and the festive Op 22.
Anvil (01256 844244). Tonight, 7.45pm.

BIRMINGHAM: Sakari Oramo and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus make another excursion into the Finnish soul with a performance of Sibelius's massive choral symphony *Kullervo* followed by the brooding tone poem *Tapiola*. The CBSO Chorus, singing in Finnish, are joined by soloists Lilli Paasikivi, mezzo, and Heikki Kilpelainen, baritone.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: First full adaptation, by Biyi Bandele, of Aphra Behn's 1688 novel *Oroonoko*, the history of a West African prince sold into slavery. Gregory Doran directs.
The Other Place (01789 295623). *Previews from tonight, 7.30pm.*

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◩ **MAMMA MIA!:** Musical based on the songs of Abba: Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a Pulitzer Prizewinner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **HAMLET:** Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's new production. With Donald Sumpter as Claudius.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

■ **GOOD:** C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732)

□ **CARD BOYS:** Even the pests who stick sex cards in phone boxes have dreams of bettering themselves, Mike Packer's spirited play tells us.
Bush (0181-743 3388).

□ **400 JOKES WITH THE DEVIL:** This is Theatre Alibi's touring account of Eisenstein's life and career, from the Odessa Steps onwards.
Lyric Studio, W6 (0181-741 8701).

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD:** Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Rupert Gould directs.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **SACRED HEART:** In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads from NW3 meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the culture-mad English spinsters who raised the director in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is closer to *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* than The Rake's Progress. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. His 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindingly naive in the sleazy 1990s. Bill Kelly directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12): Plucky performances can't save this: a tortuous trawl through a German soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's one and only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1955 fear movie.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (ICA): You could hang Sogo Ishii's surreal Japanese science fiction in the Tate. It's a beautiful, inscrutable look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious epidemic that turns the guts to stone.

CURRENT

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18). Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky thriller. With Gregg Henry, William Devane, James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults; an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

When murder is too foul

CINEMA: Hollywood is getting the jitters about its moral responsibility in the portrayal of gruesome crimes, says **Lesley O'Toole**


Todd Solondz, whose critically acclaimed film *Happiness* was initially denied American distribution because it was "morally objectionable"

The US Supreme Court gave Hollywood the shock of its life in March when it ruled in favour of Patsy-Ann Byers's negligence lawsuit against Oliver Stone and Time Warner Entertainment. Byers, a Louisiana woman, was shot and paralysed in 1995 during a holdup at the local store where she worked. Eighteen-year-old Sarah Edmondson and her boyfriend Benjamin Darrus told police they had taken drugs and embarked on a criminal spree after watching Stone's film, *Natural Born Killers*. Byers's lawyer, Joe Simpson, said in filing the suit: "Part of this is a crusade to clean up the movie industry."

It remains to be seen whether those with the power to approve films in Hollywood will become more cautious in the light of this unexpected decision, though the effects will not be reflected in the major American studios' output for some time.

For the moment, films inciting debate, outrage and loud moral objections continue to proliferate. Disney will release a film by the director Spike Lee this year about a 1977 killing orgy in New York's Bronx district by David Berkowitz, nicknamed Son of Sam. That the studio which recently announced it would return to its original roots and concentrate on family fare should be releasing the film is noteworthy in itself, though *Summer of Sam* will be released under the company's Touchstone arm, ensuring that the name Walt Disney will not appear on its poster.

Joe Roth, the chairman of Walt Disney Studios, told *The Los Angeles Times* last week: "*Summer of Sam* is the work of a somewhat controversial artist, not an example of what the Walt Disney Company thinks is a family film."

A different, more far-reaching question was posed by *The Los Angeles Times* in its February review of *8mm*. "There are some films whose existence makes the world a worse place to live and this is one of them," wrote the newspaper's chief film critic, Kenneth Turan. His comments sparked a deluge of mail from readers who subsequently saw the film, both in support of the review and taking issue with it. A story analyst for a major film studio was the most effusive in her support for Turan's stance. "Unless more men and women like Turan have the courage to speak up and remind women — and men — that they not only do not condone but are sickened by the continual treatment of women as exemplified by *8mm* and all the *8mms* before it, we will be forced to believe This Is The Way Men Are."

8mm stars Nicolas Cage as a private investigator who turns vigilante when asked to find out if a purported snuff film featuring the brutal murder of a teenage girl is real or fake. The piece of film itself is not especially graphic; the real horror, as the director Joel Schumacher asserts, is "filled in by your mind". Cage, like Schumacher, does not see the film as a social statement on pornography. "For me, it's a social statement about what happens to your average American man who's had enough of hearing and seeing young people getting killed on the news. That's where I come from with it."

Schumacher says he is "cynical and angry" about the American justice system "so I seem to be taking it into my own hands". But he laughs off any suggestion that his film might inspire copycat cases. "I think that people who want to commit atrocities are just looking for an excuse. I think the people who murdered after *Natural Born Killers* would have found another movie. When I made *Flatliners*, about young medical students deciding to kill themselves to see what death was like, journalists asked me whether I was afraid college students would start trying the same thing. I would always say, 'No. I think they're smarter than you are.'"

8mm was far from a box-office disaster in America, nor could it be called a hit. But it won no awards. *Happiness*, on the other hand, Todd Solondz's follow-up to the hugely acclaimed *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, earned a rapturous response at the Cannes Film Festival last year and won the International Critics' Prize. Yet the company which planned to release *Happiness* in America, October Films, was forced to renege on its deal last year when its parent company, Universal Pictures, cited a little-used legal loophole to avoid distributing the film. *Happiness* was promptly picked up by the independent New York distributor, Good Machine, who released the film in America last autumn.

Solondz is anxious that the correct story be told "because October Films had always been very supportive. Universal just didn't think this movie would be appropriate for the image of the company. It wasn't worth its while to endure all the controversy and flak that it expected from this little movie." Universal's escape hatch is the term "morally objectionable". Should the conglomerate find any film morally objectionable, it has the right to refuse to release it.

> ‘In Hollywood the only morality is the bottom line. If a movie is profitable, then it's moral’

The source of controversy stemmed from one of many storylines in *Happiness*: that about a paedophile who, despite having a young son of his own, rapes at least two of the boy's classmates. Nothing graphic is seen in the film and many reviews in America were extremely favourable. Solondz thinks Universal exercised its option for the very reason that the film stood no chance of generating the same kind of revenue as *8mm*, which earned more than $35 million at the box office. "If Universal thought the film was going to earn £100 million, I think it probably would have characterised it as morally courageous," says Solondz. "But this being Hollywood, the only morality is the bottom line. That is to say, if a movie is profitable, then it's moral."

He maintains that it was not the subject-matter itself which generated attention but the fact that his paedophile is portrayed with "a kind of compassion and humanity. I think this is the greatest shock for people." Clearly, the director does not invite easy sympathy for the character — "what he does is unequivocally unforgivable" — but rather paints him as a man who is "not a monster but struggles with the monster within and succumbs to this demon. I don't need to underestimate the intelligence of my audience. They know rape is bad; that is implicit. But I'm not interested in judging or punishing these characters as much as I'm interested in exploring them."

Both Solondz and Schumacher insist that nothing in either of their movies is any different from subject-matter readily available for consumption on television or in the tabloids. "There is a huge market for atrocity," says Schumacher. "Even your local bookstore is full of books with actual police photos of the most brutal murders. There's a film called *Faces of Death* which is in most video stores and shows human atrocity at its worst. It's always rented."

Solondz, employing the same black humour which pervades his films, says there's "a certain hysteria" in America about the sexual molestation of children. "It seems now as if every third person on TV was abused as a child. Everyone seems to have gone through it. You almost feel like you missed out on something."

But he is not joking in bemoaning the fact that even people who appear to revel in, rather than be turned off by, his film are missing the point. At a film festival last year, he was approached by a young man who told Solondz he had loved his movie. "Then he said, 'I've got this joke and I think you'll love it.' He proceeded to tell me the ugliest, most crass joke imaginable and then laughed and ran off. It was so depressing because for this young gentleman, watching the movie was a kind of hip, cool experience. Clearly, he didn't get what I was getting at: otherwise he would never have told me that joke."

● Happiness *is released in Britain on April 16;* 8mm *on April 23*

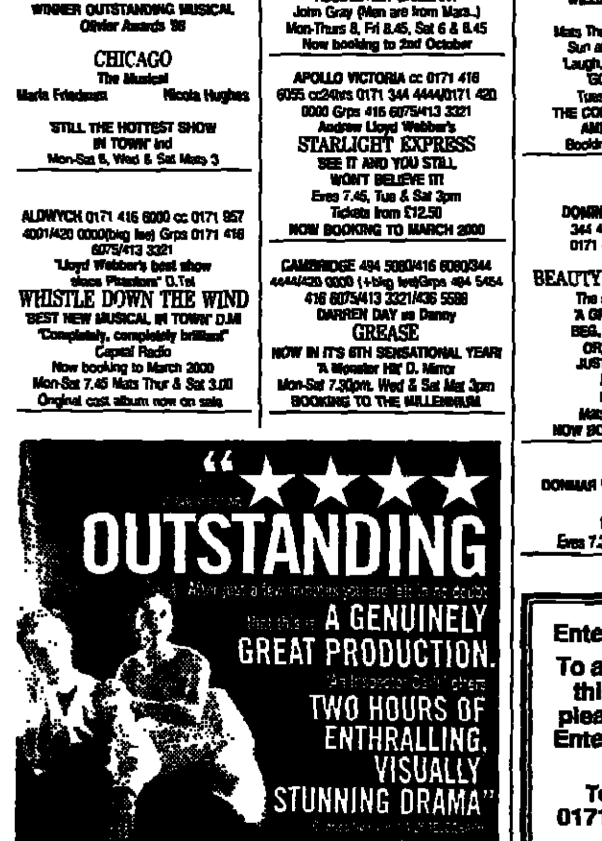
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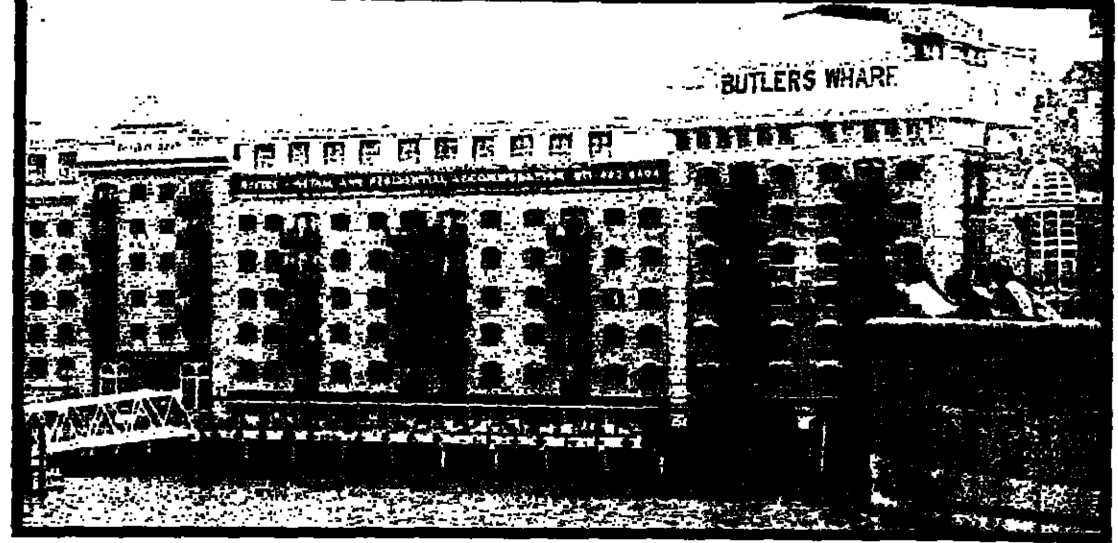
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The smart money is moving into historic Bermondsey, once home to the Bard's creations. **Jamie Ross** reports





Shoppers browse for bargains at Bermondsey market, above, off Tower Bridge Road. Right, Butler's Wharf is home to Sir Terence Conran's Pont de la Tour, Cantina and ChopHouse restaurants

In love with Shakespeare's London

The property developers' flags are flying high in Bermondsey. Bucking the general trend that cities tend to move west, upwind of grime and pollution, London is moving east. With inner-city industry all but gone, speculators are filling the gaps.

On the quiet, Bermondsey has become distinctly fashionable, a natural progression in the renaissance taking place along the south bank of the Thames.

The list of reasons to visit is growing: the Tate Gallery at Bankside, Sir Norman Foster's new mayoral palace, the Bermondsey antiques market, the Design Museum, Zandra Rhodes's Fashion Museum, Conran's eateries at Butler's Wharf, the Globe Theatre, Southwark Cathedral and old-world Borough market. Soon there will be better transport — the Jubilee Line extension. And now people want to live there too.

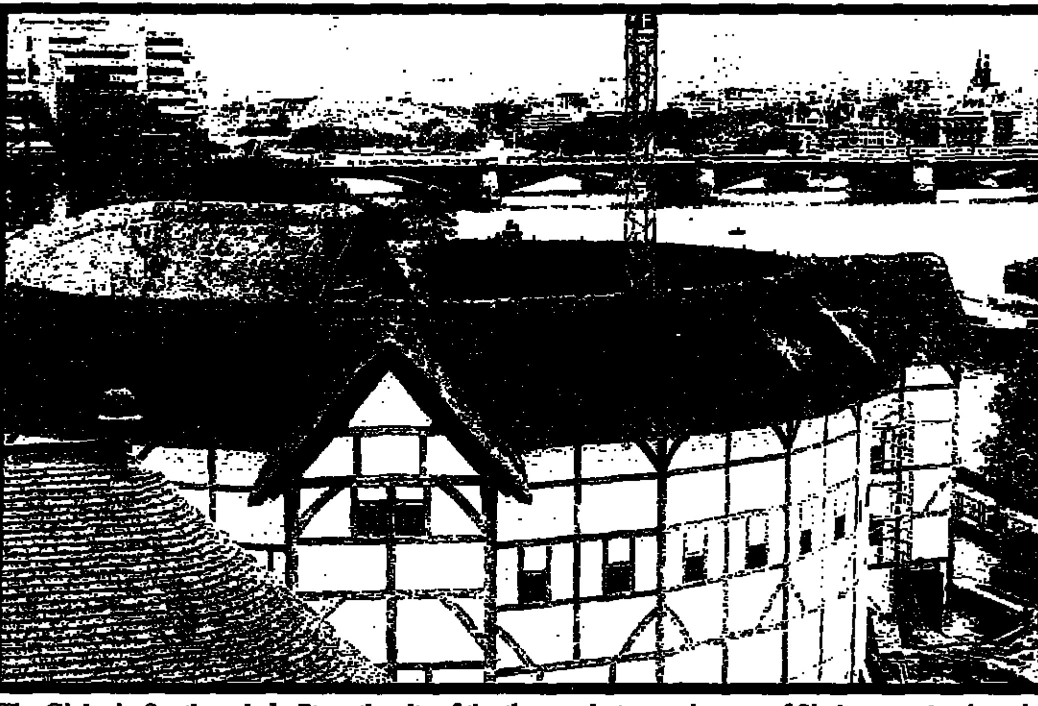
Historically, Bermondsey has long been a place of interest with a strong community spirit. The area — now part of Southwark — is defined geographically: to the north by the Thames, to the west by London Bridge and Borough High Street, to the east by Rotherhithe and to the south by the Old Kent Road. Tower Bridge Road takes you from the City straight to its heart.

The district's history goes back to murky Saxon origins, beginning with a Lord Boermund (the 'ey' added to describe the marsh it was at the time).

Until the 16th century, it had an abbey second only to Westminster in importance. Samuel Pepys frequented its pleasure gardens with his children in the 17th century. But Victorian London's industrial growth and urban decline produced a less attractive Bermondsey.

By 1850, appalling housing and open sewers earned Bermondsey the descriptions "the Venice of drains" and "the capital of cholera"; a fitting place for Bill Sykes to meet his end in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.

The area is dotted with bits of history. The heart of old Bermondsey village, Bermondsey Street, has 17th-century houses and shopfronts and is a conservation area, now happily undergoing a facelift.



The Globe in Southwark, built on the site of the theatre that staged many of Shakespeare's triumphs

Until 1970, Bermondsey's warehouses, which lined the riverfront from London Bridge to Rotherhithe, were the city's central depot for goods from around the world. It was its Thameside community of warehousemen, wharf owners and shippers who earned Bermondsey the palatable description of the "larder" of London.

Large-draught ships would arrive at Surrey Docks before smaller lighters brought the cargo further upriver for storage at Bermondsey. This all ended with containerisation, although until recently tea-scented streets near Tower Bridge reminded passers-by that some warehouses were still active.

But bargain-hunters looking for a warehouse conversion have missed the boat. Since the mid-Eighties the disused warehouses around Shad Thames, with names redolent of their past such as Saffron Wharf and Java Wharf, have been transformed from pigeon-infested black holes into halogen-lit acres of wood flooring and boilerplate chic. Two-bedroom apartments sell for at least £400,000, with river frontage adding an automatic £100,000 to the price. A few unconverted warehouses remain, but all are accounted for.

According to Roger Smith, of the Bermondsey estate agents Michael Kalmar, it is not just the predictable City and media types who are enjoying the Bermondsey warehouse life. "There is a significant number of older and perhaps richer purchasers interested in the area," he says.

One such couple, who have bought a flat in Jacob's Island on the river, are a retired radiologist, Dr Nicholas Godlee, and his wife Barbara. They divide their time between Sussex and Bermondsey. "We love being near the river and Bermondsey is really very central," says Mrs Godlee. "But development is absolutely rampant around here now and we are afraid of losing our view of the Thames and Tower Bridge."

Mr Smith says security can be an issue for some purchasers, but many riverside developments offer enough security to quell such concerns.

The popularity of Bermondsey has now spread from the riverside deeper into the old borough, and the property price gradient is steep. A two-bedroom flat of about 700sq ft in a "new build" will cost you about £175,000. You can still find Victorian terrace cottages — those that escaped the intense wartime bombing of the area — going for £200,000.

David Campbell, a management consultant, and his fiancée have recently moved into one. He says: "There is a strong sense of history in Bermondsey. It is real old London. Our 60-year-old neighbour was born in his front parlour."

The scale of building is impressive. Around every corner there are new constructions or old industrial buildings being transformed into apartment blocks or "shells" popular with design-inspired buyers.

Shells are a City-fringe phenomenon for the well-heeled. Essentially, they are newly created empty spaces: bare walls and floors, with utility points, which the purchaser fits out with partition walls, heating systems and as much as he or she wants or can afford at the time.

The rule of thumb for shells is to add on a minimum of £30,000 to the purchase price before you can move in. A shell in a warehouse in inner Bermondsey goes for between £150,000 and £250,000.

According to Mr Smith, prices of residential property have risen by 50 per cent in the past four years. It still is a rising market with purchasers flocking to new developments. Once the Jubilee Line to Greenwich is finished and the Millennium Dome pilgrims start flowing through, Bermondsey will be back on the map.

Buyers go for design

IF IT is not furnished and decorated to within an inch of its life, then forget it, *Amanda Loose writes*. Buyers of new developments at the top end of the housing market are increasingly interested only in properties that have been interior-designed.

The show flat at the Bromptons, the redevelopment of the Royal Brompton Hospital in southwest London by Northacre, has sold for £1,000 per sq ft, almost double the going rate.

Increasingly, developers are having to recruit interior designers, says Linda Beaney at Beaney Pearce, as growing numbers of buyers of luxury developments demand show homes.

She says: "If you have the chance to show a buyer a shell or a show home, nine out of ten will opt for the show home."

Chesham Place, a development of 23 flats and houses on the Chesham Place Estate in Belgravia, is a case in point. Those properties that were marketed as shells sold more slowly, says Brendan Roberts at Aylesford.

Peter Wetherell, of Wetherell in Mayfair, says: "We are selling a lifestyle as opposed to real estate. No matter what you do, they tend to buy with one chequebook and will use another to rip it all out again."

Wetherell is currently selling 15 Culross Street in Mayfair. Its refurbishment has been overseen by Michael Reeves, who won the 1998 International Interior Designer of the Year award on the back of this work. The asking price is £2.95 million for a 99-year lease.

Aylesford is selling flat four at 37 Chesham Place for £4.75 million with a 999-year lease from January 1995.

Changing rooms and styles that changed our lives

Danny Lee looks back at 90 years of the Ideal Home Show and at how tradition has triumphed over sci-fi properties

If you look at your home carefully, a tiny window on the past may present itself. From the ceiling rose through to the central heating system, a trail of design innovations stretches back to when the property was built.

Architects have spent most of this century making bold predictions for the fate of the home in the year 2000, including glass properties, moveable houses and underground homes. But as we head towards the millennium, how many of these forecasts will be realised?

The Ideal Home Show gives visitors the chance to see some of the current ideas on the abode of the future.

A centrepiece exhibit is the award-winning Pierre D'Avoine Architect's Slim House. Designed to save space, it features a single-storey terrace with communal courtyards and roof gardens.

It is a far cry from the mock Tudor village shown at one of the first exhibitions in 1910, which made great play of the space available in the houses. Nothing about them was Tudor, of course, but the style of the properties was nevertheless backward-looking.

"The future is unpredictable," says Alan Powers, an architecture historian. "People are naturally conservative and the part of the housing stock that changes is only a tiny rim on a large static mass."

Some designers take a more strident view. "Traditional standard houses are boxes where people are supposed to live," says Jan Kaplicky, of the design group Future Systems, which designed the Teletubbies' underground house in the Pembrokeshire hills. "They offer nothing in green or spacial terms."

Although the much prophesied domestic robot of the Fifties and Sixties has so far managed to evade the mass market, trade in labour-saving devices, such as microwaves and dishwashers, is now worth billions.

The 1928 prophecy of one architect, Robert Duncan, was that the house of the future would be made from "material never before employed — a thin impervious substance carried by hidden supports of stainless steel".

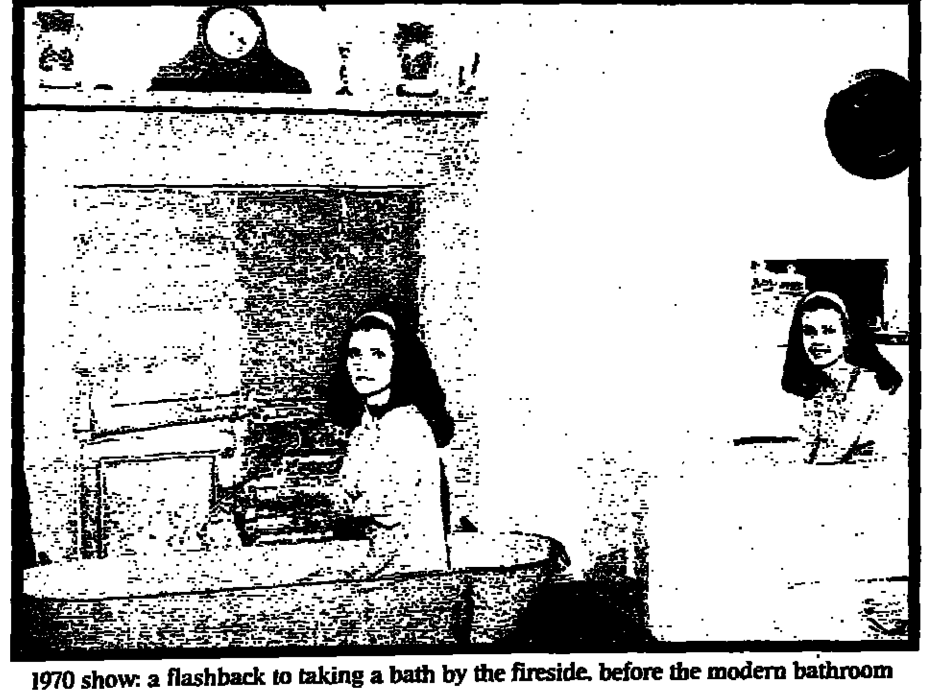
Windows would open by "rising and falling" like those in a car. A ventilator over each bed would pump out ozonised air and there would be a bathing pool on the aero-car garage roof. And if more space was needed for entertaining, shutter-walls could be removed and pneumatic chairs deflated.

The 1930 Ideal Home Show played host to The Nursery of 1960 which featured a ceiling that could be opened to the sky.

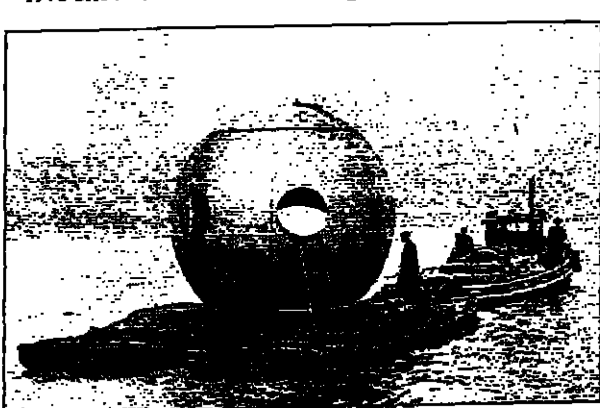
In the United States in 1940, extravagant optimism was also the order of the day. The Futurama, a 36,000sq ft scale model of America in 1960, showed futuristic homes and an advanced 100mph highway system.

In the true sci-fi style of the decade, the Fifties brought with them the Round House, a house shaped like a ball, with plastic furniture that rose from the floor.

So, is it just public conservatism that has strangled so many of these ideas at birth? Partly, but factors such as the oil crisis, the Vietnam War and environmental scares at the end of the Sixties, meant that designers in the Seventies and Eighties tended to err on the side of caution.



1970 show: a flashback to taking a bath by the fireside, before the modern bathroom



1959: Round House on its way to the show via the Thames

As well as the Slim House at this year's show, other designs struggling to become the shape of the future include:

- ☐ A solar-powered pyramid house unveiled by BP at the beginning of the year.
- ☐ Underground homes made from prefabricated modules, which allow light to enter through a sunken courtyard in the middle.
- ☐ A healthy diagnostic house with kitchen anti-frying alarms and lavatory sensors that detect bowel problems.
- ☐ On a more visionary scale, the designer Steve Johnson has created a prefabricated, quick-assembly house for Scotland's Millennium Forest. It is built among the leaves and branches, high above the ground.

How many householders of the future will look at the traces of today's design ideas in their homes and smile?

● *The Ideal Home Show is at Earls Court until Sunday.*

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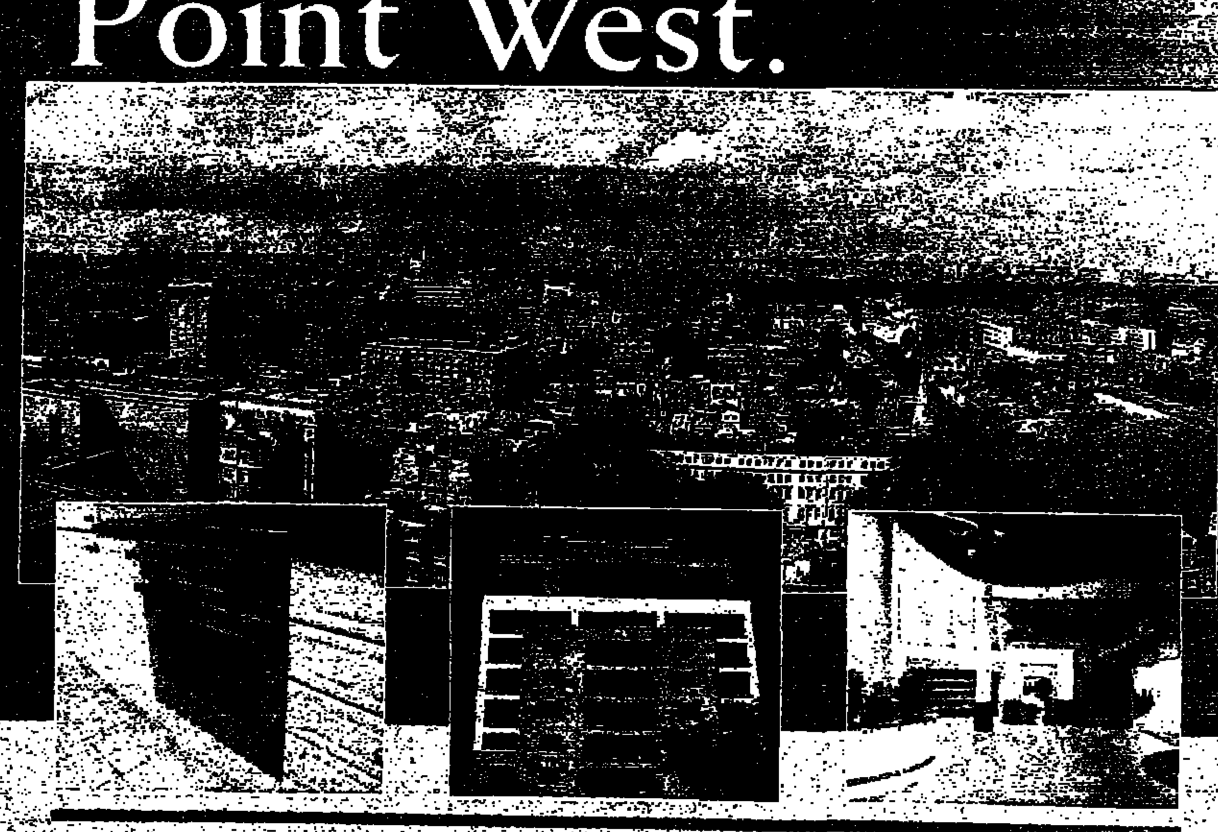
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REGALIAN

Tax avoidance scheme is legal

Hitch and Others v Stone (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker

[Judgment March 18]

A complex and artificial tax avoidance scheme, evidenced in sloppily executed documents by taxpayers and their legal adviser, could not be regarded as a sham and having no legal effect. The performance of the agreements for the disposal of potential development land giving rise to real consequences that affected third parties made it impossible for such a conclusion to be reached.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals brought by way of case stated by the taxpayers, Mr Henry Hitch, Mr Ian Handy and Mrs Beatrice Handy, from a decision in principle by the special commissioners holding that the agreements on which the scheme was based were shams.

Mr Leolin Price, QC, Miss Penelope Reed and Mr John Smart for the taxpayers; Mr Phillip Vallance, QC and Miss Karen Steyn for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that the Revenue assessed the taxpayers to capital gains tax on the disposal during 1984-85 of some 463 acres of agricultural land known as Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, which was beneficially owned by members of the Hitch family.

The taxpayers appealed the assessments relying on documents which came into existence as part of an avoidance scheme entered into by the family that was designed to convert capital sums representing the realisation of the development value of the land into income in the hands of the family, as and when received by them.

The Revenue contended that the documents were of no legal effect, its primary contention being that they were shams.

At one stage the Revenue had challenged the efficacy of the scheme on the basis of the decision of the House of Lords in *Furniss v Dawson* ([1984] AC 474) but abandoned the argument shortly before the commissioners heard the case.

By agreement the commissioners had limited their decision to ruling on the Revenue's challenge to the legal effect of the documents.

The commissioners found that a purported agreement dated April 16, 1984, which formed part of the tax avoidance scheme was a sham in the sense that it was "intended ... to give the appearance of creating between the parties legal rights and obligations different from the actual legal rights and obligations (if any) which the parties intend to create", per Lord Justice Diplock in *Snook v London and West Riding Investments Ltd* ([1967] 2 QB 786, 802).

Following that finding, the commissioners concluded that a further purported agreement dated April 17, 1984, and two recitals to a deed dated June 22, 1984, whereby part of the farm was acquired by Crest Homes plc, were also shams.

The commissioners criticised Mr Henry Hitch and Mr Patrick Taylor, a solicitor specialising in tax avoidance, stating that their evidence was inherently unreliable and that their dealings with the Revenue had been less than straightforward.

The commissioners found that although the evidence was largely circumstantial they were driven to the conclusion that the taxpayers did not intend by virtue of the 1984 agreement to grant a 999-year lease of the farm to a small Singapore company.

Having correctly directed themselves on the question of sham, per Lord Justice Diplock in *Snook*, it was prima facie difficult to see how the commissioners' finding of fact could be susceptible of challenge on appeal.

But it was important to appreciate that the finding was made in the face of the parties' own evidence as to their own intentions and thus was based, as would almost inevitably be the case where allegations of sham were made, on inference drawn from the facts.

It was for the court to consider whether the inference which the commissioners drew as to the true intentions of the parties to the 1984 agreement was correctly drawn.

If in all the circumstances and on the totality of the facts found that inference could not properly be drawn, then the position would be that the true and only reasonable conclusion contradicted the commissioners' determination and the appeal had to succeed: see *Edwards v Bairstow* ([1956] AC 14).

Of the factors that led the commissioners to their decision, neither the Hitch family's wish to realise the farm's development value, nor the unreliability of some of the witnesses, provided evidence of sham. Equally, the fact that the 1984 agreement was not negotiated at arms' length did no more than set the scene for the inquiry.

That the agreement was not performed in every respect according to its terms took the matter little further. The important question was whether it was performed at all. If and to the extent it was performed, it was difficult to maintain that it was a sham; the more so in circumstances where performance of it led to real as opposed to sham consequences affecting third parties.

It was impossible to regard the 1984 agreement as a sham. Where parties had entered into an agreement to effect a particular disposition, and that disposition was subsequently effected, there was no scope for an argument that the parties did not intend the agreement to have its expressed effect.

In a case involving a complex and artificial tax avoidance scheme, where the scheme documentation was sloppily executed, where the evidence of the taxpayer and of his legal adviser, the deviser of the scheme, was found to be unreliable, and where their dealings with the Revenue had been less than straightforward, there had to be a strong temptation for any tribunal to throw up its hands and cry "Sham!" But in the instant case and so long as the *Snook* definition remained that temptation had to be resisted.

Having examined the facts found and with every respect for the experienced special commissioners who heard the case, the only reasonable conclusion was inconsistent with their decision.

Any challenge to the fiscal efficacy of the scheme had to based on *Furniss v Dawson*. No such challenge had been mounted by the Revenue and no view would be expressed as to whether if it had been it would have succeeded.

Solicitors: Gregory, Rowcliffe & Milners for Mr T. P. D. Taylor, Douglas, Isle of Man; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Staying action before tribunal

Chorion plc and Others v Lane

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment February 24]

It was wrong for essentially the same issues to be run in two separate tribunals. Where there was a significant overlap between an application to an employment tribunal and an action in the High Court, with common issues permeating each dispute and an effectively agreed timetable, it was appropriate to stay the former.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, on interlocutory applications by the plaintiffs, Chorion plc, Chorion (IP) Ltd, Enid Blyton Ltd, Agatha Christie Ltd, Robert Bolt (1973) Ltd and Rights Ltd, in ordering David Charles William Lane either to apply for a stay of his complaint of unfair dismissal in his employment tribunal case No 6004195/98, or to consent to an application for such a stay by the plaintiffs.

Mr Ian Geering, QC and Miss Juliet May for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Collins, QC and Mr Martin Griffiths for Mr Lane.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that the plaintiffs were a group concerned, inter alia, with the exploitation of intellectual property rights.

Mr Lane had become managing director of the third plaintiff in February 1996, and in July 1997 an executive director of the first and managing director of each other plaintiff.

On September 29, 1998, he had handed in a letter, the effect of which was in dispute: the plaintiffs contended that it resigned all six of his directorships, and he, that it only resigned his directorship of the first plaintiff. Next day he had returned to his office in the plaintiffs' premises and cleared out his effects.

On December 11 his solicitors wrote a letter before action to the plaintiffs, accompanied by an originating application to the employment tribunal setting out his grounds for asserting unfair dismissal.

On February 18 the plaintiffs served their own statement of claim against Mr Lane alleging wrongful acts committed by him both while still a senior executive of the plaintiffs and subsequently.

On three matters, there seemed no dispute:

1 It was proper that Mr Lane's claim for unfair dismissal be heard as soon as possible;

2 Issues of breach of fiduciary duty and of confidence raised serious issues of impropriety; and

3 Allegations of unfair dismissal also carried a stigma, although maybe a lesser one.

His Lordship had considerable sympathy for Mr Lane's view that the timetable proposed by the plaintiffs for the tribunal hearing was too tight for him adequately to defend himself: speedy litigation was likely to be cheaper than slow, but there came a point when speed could give rise to injustice.

His Lordship would order the plaintiffs' amended statement of claim to be served by March, adopt Mr Collins' timetable as the fastest that could be imposed while doing justice to Mr Lane, and order an expedited trial in the High Court to come on not before July 1, with an estimated duration of five days.

That left only one issue: should the court make an order effectively forcing Mr Lane to hold back on his application to the employment tribunal?

His Lordship would proceed on the basis that, as at present formulated, the same questions of breach of fiduciary duty and breach of confidence would form part, but not the whole, of the matters to be determined in the tribunal and would form a major part of the High Court action.

The courts had always set their face against avoidable duplication of proceedings: in *Carter v Ward and Goldstone Ltd* ([1979] ICR 574, 576) Mr Justice Bristow, delivering the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in relation to a similar common question which formed part of the investigation both by the High Court and by the industrial tribunal had said: "We think it clearly right in the interests of justice that the High Court proceedings should be heard first."

Mr Collins urged that here, an application to stay being on foot before the tribunal, his Lordship should not take that decision away from the tribunal; also, that in the case of an unfair dismissal there was a fundamental objective that the employee's claim should be determined as soon as possible.

However, his Lordship had come to the conclusion that it would be wrong for essentially the same serious issues to be run in two separate tribunals and that it was appropriate to make an order that Mr Lane should apply for a stay, or consent to the plaintiffs' application for a stay, of his complaint of unfair dismissal, currently listed to take place on April 26, pending final determination of the High Court action, and, in the meantime, be restrained from proceeding before the tribunal.

Solicitors: Norton Rose; Simmons & Simmons.

Duty to make full and accurate disclosure

Bird v Hadkinson

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment March 4]

A disclosure order contained in an injunction carried with it an obligation to do more than simply tell the truth. Accordingly, a respondent who gave a truthful but inaccurate answer, without taking reasonable steps to investigate its truth, was in contempt of court.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when ordering that the respondent, Bernadette Hadkinson, pay 85 per cent of the costs on an indemnity basis of abandoned committal proceedings brought by Colin Graham Bird, the trustee in bankruptcy of Colin Graham Hadkinson, the respondent's husband.

Mr Andrew Lenon for Mr Bird; Mr David Marks for Mrs Hadkinson.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that on February 27, 1998 a bankruptcy order was made against Mr Hadkinson. According to his own sworn statement of affairs, his total indebtness was approximately £17.1 millio; of that, only about £1,800 had been received by the trustee in bankruptcy.

Mr Justice Eady had granted the principal creditor an asset-freezing Mareva injunction restraining Mr Hadkinson from dealing with or disposing of his assets. Some two weeks after the Mareva was granted and served, he transferred approximately £4.25 million from his bank account in Jersey to his wife, who deposited the money into an account in Switzerland.

On December 2, 1998, Mr Justice Rattee granted a Mareva injunction against Mrs Hadkinson. Paragraph 2 of the order required her to provide certain information within 24 hours of service and serve a confirmatory affidavit within seven days.

On December 5, 1998 she swore an affidavit which purported to provide the information required by paragraph 2 of the order. She said that she did not know what had happened to the funds transferred to her account but that to the best of her knowledge they were still in her account.

The applicant's solicitors considered that the answers were wholly adequate and that Mrs Hadkinson had failed to take all steps which she ought reasonably to have taken to obtain and provide the necessary information required by the order. Accordingly, the applicant instigated committal proceedings against her.

On February 9, 1998, she provided a fuller affidavit and in those circumstances the applicant decided not to proceed with the motion to commit but contended that he should have his costs on an indemnity basis.

His Lordship said that the case raised a question of principle: where an order such as the familiar disclosure order in a Mareva injunction required the respondent to do something, was it enough that they give an honest answer or did they have to do more than merely provide an answer to satisfy the terms of the injunction?

In his Lordship's judgment the order carried with it an obligation to do more than merely tell the truth. If the respondent gave a truthful but inaccurate answer, without taking reasonable steps to investigate the truth or otherwise of the answer, then that was contempt.

In the instant case, Mrs Hadkinson had not given an accurate answer to the questions in the order and acted in an unreasonably dilatory manner.

Second, his Lordship said that he had to consider the mental element required for contempt on which there was conflict between the Court of Appeal in *Irtelli v Squatriti and Others* ([1993] QB 83) and the House of Lords in *Director General of Fair Trading v Pioneer Concrete (UK) and Another* ([1995] 1 AC 456).

In *Irtelli* Lord Justice Farquharson said (at p90) that it was inappropriate to find contempt unless: "the evidence establishes beyond reasonable doubt that [the respondent] did intend to act in contempt of the court's authority".

The decision in *Irtelli* was a decision of a strong Court of Appeal and would ordinarily be binding, however, his Lordship was satisfied that he should not follow it.

The House of Lords decision in *Pioneer* was more consistent with the previous line of authority. Moreover, *Irtelli* suffered from two problems.

First, the previous line of authority was not cited and second, the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Pioneer*, which was subsequently reversed by the House of Lords, appeared to have been cited in skeleton arguments, which might explain the observations of Lord Justice Farquharson.

Accordingly, his Lordship said that he was not only free, but should, follow the approach of the House of Lords in *Pioneer*.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

Whether driver was an employee

Express and Echo Publications Ltd v Tanton

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment March 11]

It was necessary for a contract of employment to contain an obligation on the part of the employee to provide services personally. A contract which allowed services to be carried out by a person other than the contractor was a contract for services and not a contract of service.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Express and Echo Publications Ltd from the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Judge Peter Clark, Mr P. R. A. Jacques and Miss S. M. Wilson) (unreported, January 30, 1998) of their appeal against a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at Exeter on September 16, 1997 on the preliminary issue whether the applicant, Ernest Tanton, was an employee within the meaning of section 230 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Mr Jonathan Swift for the employer; Mr Tanton in person.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said Mr Tanton had been an employee of the company but had been made redundant in 1995 and had subsequently been taken on as a driver under an "agreement for services", clause 3.3 of which provided:

"In the event that the contractor is unable or unwilling to perform the services personally he shall arrange at his own expense entirely for another suitable person to perform the services."

His Lordship referred to *Clark v Oxfordshire Health Authority* ([1998] IRLR 125) where it was held that an irreducible minimum of obligation was necessary to create a contract of employment. Without such an obligation it could not be said that the contract was one of service.

The law now recognised unambiguously that a contract of employment involved mutual trust and confidence: *Malik v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* (*The Times* June 13, 1997; [1997] ICR 606).

It was established that where a person who worked for another was not required to provide those services personally it could not be right as a matter of law that the relationship between the worker and the person for whom he worked was that of employee and employer.

It was the common intention of the parties that Mr Tanton should be a self-employed contractor.

Matters such as the absence of holiday and sickness pay which the industrial tribunal chairman had found to be pointers to a contract of service were in no way inconsistent with a contract for services.

But clause 3.3 not requiring Mr Tanton to perform any services personally was a provision wholly inconsistent with the contract being a contract of service.

Both the tribunal chairman and the appeal tribunal had erred in law. The only conclusion which could properly be reached was that the contract was one for services.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Foot & Bowden, Plymouth.

RUGBY UNION

Woodward waits for Guscott to prove fitness

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

ENGLAND know the enemy that stands between them and a grand slam with which to conclude the millennium. Now all they have to do is determine their own composition for the final match of the final Five Nations Championship, against Wales at Wembley on Sunday, and their medical team could have the final say in selection.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, will have expected the unchanged Wales XV that was named yesterday, at much the same time as his own squad of 25 was announced, from which three will be dropped today. Whereas Graham Henry, the Wales coach, admitted that he took only five seconds to select his starting line-up, Woodward must await reports on Jeremy Guscott's hamstring before settling on his three-quarters.

Guscott's frame of mind will not be helped by the court appearance that awaits him later this month after an alleged road-rage incident. If the Bath centre makes his sixtieth England appearance this weekend, then Woodward can ponder whether to recall Tony Underwood to the right wing in place of the injured David Rees or to throw in Steve Hanley, the Sale teenager, who has enjoyed a meteoric rise in his first season of first-class rugby.

Underwood has started games this season against Australia and South Africa, and represents the safe option. This was not always Woodward's *modus operandi* as a player, nor has it been his hallmark as a selector. He watched Hanley play an important role in Sale's win over London Irish at the weekend and will not be worried at his youth or his inexperience.

If, however, he has to replace Guscott in midfield, his thinking may change. The only other centre in the squad is Barrie-Jon Mather, who is not first-choice at Sale these days, and other midfield options include moving either Matt Perry or Nick Beal from full back. Both played in the centre during the southern hemisphere tour last summer, though neither would wish to repeat the experience.

With Matt Dawson at scrum half for Kyran Bracken, Woodward lost no time in recalling Austin Healey to England duty. The Leicester scrum half ends an eight-week suspension on Saturday, sustained after a stamping incident with Kevin Putt, of London Irish, and with Scott Benton carrying a leg injury, there are precious few alternatives to Healey, despite his lack of match practice. There is, too, a recall for Ben Clarke, who has spent the new year in the England A side and will be happy to make a return to the senior squad, which he did so much to boost on tour last year.

No such uncertainty clouds Henry's mind. "We would like to have had Allan Bateman in the 22, but we have been able to restore David Young and Andrew Lewis, who have played a lot of Test matches," he said. Henry seeks experience as a prime requisite, but also stability, hence his pleasure at selecting the same XV that beat Italy 60-21 and 14 of those who succeeded in France a fortnight earlier.

Young and Lewis, the Cardiff props, displace Darren Morris and Geraint Lewis because Henry believes he may need to change his entire front row at some stage against the powerful England tight five. "We have to improve in most areas," Henry said. "We need stability at first phase, to retain the ball in the tackle area, which we haven't always done consistently, to play the game in a positive frame of mind, to concentrate on the total package."

In fact, Henry's shopping list of requirements for his players is as long as his arm, but he has been enthused by the quality he has seen at junior level in recent weeks, in his under-19 and under-21 squads, where success has made the future seem brighter, win or lose at Wembley. There can be no greater carrot for Wales, as Robert Howley, the captain, acknowledged, than to deny England a grand slam.

"We will enjoy our last international at Wembley and we will try to give England a game," Howley said. "We can't afford to give them territory or possession, we will have to sort that out if we are to compete." So much humility has been coming out of Wales of late, it is distinctly worrying — for England.

SQUADS

WALES: S P Howarth (Sale), G Thomas (Cardiff), M Taylor (Swansea), I S Gibbs (Swansea), D R James (Pontypridd), N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain), P J D Rogers (London Irish), G R Jenkins (Swansea), B R Evans (Swansea), J C Quinnell (Richmond), C P Wyatt (Llanelli), C L Charvis (Swansea), B D Sinkinson (Neath), L S Quinnell (Llanelli). Replacements: N Walne (Richmond), N Boobyer (Llanelli), D S Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale), M J Voyle (Llanelli), D Young (Cardiff), A L P Lewis (Cardiff), B H Williams (Richmond)

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: N Beal (Northampton), M Perry (Bath), S Hanley (Sale), D Luger (Harlequins), T Underwood (Newcastle), J Guscott (Bath), B-J Mather (Sale), J Wilkinson (Newcastle), M Catt (Bath), M Dawson (Northampton), A Healey (Leicester). Forwards: D Garforth (Leicester), J Leonard (Harlequins), G Rowntree (Leicester), V Ubogu (Bath), R Cockerill (Leicester), N McCarthy (Gloucester), G Archer (Newcastle), M Johnson (Leicester), T Rodber (Northampton/Army), N Back (Leicester), B Clarke (Richmond), M Corry (Leicester), L Dallaglio (Wasps), R Hill (Saracens)


Healey: recalled to squad

ERIC WHITEHEAD


Power play: a jubilant Dott celebrates his 147 break against David Roe yesterday

Dott's perfect finish has the maximum effect

By Phil Yates

GRAEME DOTT underlined the unparalleled break-building standards being set by the top players when he made a maximum break to reach the second round of the British Open at Plymouth yesterday.

Dott, the world No 30, compiled the 147 in the penultimate frame of his 5-4 victory over David Roe. It was the 29th perfect run in professional competition and the seventh this season, two more than the previous record, set in 1991-92.

It was also the second in this tournament — Jason Prince made one in the final qualifying round at Blackpool in January — the fifth this year and the seventeenth in world ranking events. The frequency of maximums is, perhaps, threatening to devalue them as an achievement.

Even so, Dott was delighted, despite having surrendered an ideal position on numerous occasions. He collected £5,000 and received the keys to a Vauxhall Vectra.

Towards the end of the frame, Dott was forced to judge several difficult pots, most notably the brown, which he clipped thin to a baulk pocket while employing the rest. A long blue followed, and even the black off its spot was by no means a formality.

"Every shot on the colours was missable so in some respects that took a lot of pressure off me," Dott said. "There's no way I could've been too disappointed about missing. I never thought I'd do it until the last black disappeared."

Dott, a diminutive 21-year-old from Glasgow, advances to play Stephen Hendry in a repeat of the Scottish Open final in February when the six-times world champion, who has recorded five maximums in competition, won 9-1.

The confidence generated by that result, and Hendry's subsequent capture of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters title, was evident during his 5-0 whitewash of Jon Birch. Hendry, who had breaks of 136 and 109, was detained for only 76 minutes.

Jimmy White, desperate for all the ranking points he can muster in his fight to regain entry to the world's top 16 next season, rallied from 4-3 down to edge out Joe Swail 5-4 and will now meet John Parrott in the second round.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Easter schedule upsets coaches

By Christopher Irvine

WHILE Super League Europe (SLE) officials were congratulating themselves on increased crowds over Easter, several coaches were outraged by the physical price of playing two JJB Super League games in four or five days.

The aggregate attendance figure for the holiday fixtures is set to exceed 100,000 when Huddersfield Giants and Castleford Tigers meet at the McAlpine Stadium tonight. The 15,000 crowd at St Helens on Monday was the biggest at Knowsley Road since the team won the 1996 Super League title. In addition, there were 16,000 attendances at Wigan and Bradford, which are seen by SLE as justifying the reintroduction of two Easter fixtures in an expanded 30-match league programme.

However, it was noticeable in most cases on Monday that matches lacked the intensity of those last Thursday and Friday because players were tired and more vulnerable to injury. A patched-up London Broncos must play their fourth match in less than a fortnight at home against St Helens, the league leaders, on Friday.

Dan Stains, the London coach, gave warning after the defeat away at Leeds on Monday that playing standards would suffer. After an typically limp and bloodless encounter, Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, said: "Our match against Bradford on the Thursday was about quality, not the lacklustre follow-up, which you get because players cannot recover properly in time."

In the latest issue of *Rugby League World*, Malcolm Reilly, the Huddersfield coach, takes another swipe at the self-congratulatory mood in the domestic game after his four years in charge of Newcastle Knights, who won the 1997 Australian Premiership in his charge.

Reilly is dismayed that warnings he made before he left for Australia about player development have not been heeded. "The infrastructure is very ordinary. We just haven't got anywhere near the depth that the Australian development programme has," he said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Leicester Riders to look for new coach

■ **BASKETBALL:** Dave Harris, 38, has paid the price for presiding over Leicester Riders' lowest finish in the Budweiser League. The coach is not having his contract renewed for a second season, although the club did end their campaign on a high note last Saturday by beating Derby Storm, coached by Harris's predecessor, Bob Donewald. Leicester still finished one off the bottom, in twelfth place.

"Dave had a tough baptism in the top flight and I know he was as disappointed as anyone with the way the results went," Kevin Routledge, the Leicester chairman, said yesterday.

■ **BOWLS:** The absence of Amy Gowshall, the national champion of champions title-holder, who is only 20, from the England women's junior side announced yesterday suggests that she has been pencilled in for a place in the senior side. The junior side — those who have not yet celebrated their 26th birthday — will contest the under-25 home international series in Ayr next August. Gowshall, who reached her first England final when she was 14, could become the youngest woman to play bowls for England.

TEAM: Rink 1: R Winter-Alsop (Glos), K Jones (Bucks), S Newson (Hunts), C Northall (Devon). Rink 2: S Poyser (Notts), J Simmons (Derbys), M Mooring (Yorks), C Haney (Cumbs). Rink 3: E Alexander (Cambs), J Skelley (Bucks), N Poole (Devon), K-A Dyer (Glos). Rink 4: K Blesty (Derbys), E Simmons (Derbys), K Dalzel (Cumbs), K Cousins (Wilts). Reserve: E Poyser (Notts).

■ **SQUASH:** Nick Matthew, Adrian Grant and Vicky Lankester, of England, defeated Spain 3-0 in the team final of the European junior championships in Vienna. Grant and Lankester had previously won the European under-19 boys' and girls' individual titles.

■ **SKIING:** Amanda Pirie and Noel Baxter, both of Scotland, won the super-giant slalom titles in the final event of the British Land junior national championships in Tignes, France, in a repeat of the slalom results of Monday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Cardinal Morton was one of Henry VII's prime revenue collectors. He would visit the homes of the wealthy, and if they made him at home with lavish expenditure, he would infer that they had plenty of money and could thus contribute to the king. Thrifty hospitality would, of course, imply that they had saved up their funds – and would thus also be able to make a generous donation to the royal exchequer. What has this to do with bridge? Well, consider the following hand.

Dealer South Game all Teams

North: ♠ K 7 2 ♡ J 9 5 3 ♢ A K 8 2 ♣ Q 4

West: ♠ Q 10 3 ♡ A K 7 ♢ Q 6 5 4 ♣ J 6 2

East: ♠ J 8 ♡ 2 ♢ J 10 9 7 3 ♣ A 10 9 8 3

South: ♠ A 9 6 5 4 ♡ Q 10 8 6 4 ♢ – ♣ K 7 5

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1 D	Pass	1 S
Pass	1 NT (12-14)	Pass	3 H
Pass	4 H	All Pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of hearts.

This hand from the qualifying round of the Dutch Forbo Tournament saw both tables reach Four Hearts. In one room the Dutch declarer as North pitched a club from dummy on the diamond lead, after which the contract could no longer be made. The loss of a spade, a club and two trumps was unavoidable.

At the other table Willem Gosschalk as South became declarer after the auction shown above, where the jump to Three Hearts as a passed hand showed 5-5 distribution and invitational values. He showed the right way to play the hand. West kicked off with two top hearts, and a third round of trumps was taken by North's jack.

At this point Gosschalk reasoned correctly that it was likely (because of West's initial pass) that East held the ace of clubs. He therefore played a low club away from the queen. East was caught in a genuine Morton's Fork Coup. If he rose with the ace, the spade loser in dummy would later disappear on the king of clubs. In fact, East ducked, but instead saw declarer's remaining clubs discarded on dummy's high diamonds.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Decisive wins

Today I wrap up the Spassky — Korchnoi match in St Petersburg with the two decisive games which enabled Korchnoi to turn the match in his favour. At the half-way stage the contest was level pegging but Korchnoi displayed superior powers of stamina over the finishing stretch.

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Boris Spassky
St Petersburg 1999
Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	f3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	e4	Nb6
6	Nc3	Bg7
7	Be3	0-0
8	f4	c6
9	Nf3	Be6
10	Qc2	N8d7
11	Be2	Bc4
12	g4	e6
13	h4	Qe7
14	h5	c5
15	e5	Rfc8
16	hxg6	hxg6
17	dxc5	Nxc5
18	Bd4	Bd5
19	Rd1	Rd8
20	Nxd5	Rxd5
21	Kf2	Rc8
22	Qb1	Rcd8
23	b3	Na6
24	Qe4	Nb4
25	f5	exf5
26	gxf5	gxf5
27	Qxf5	Rxd4
28	Rdg1	Black resigns

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Boris Spassky
St Petersburg 1999
Benko Gambit

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	c5
3	d5	b5
4	cxb5	a6
5	bxa6	g6
6	Nc3	Bxa6
7	e4	Bxf1
8	Kxf1	d6
9	Nf3	Bg7
10	g3	0-0
11	Kg2	Nbd7
12	h3	Ra6
13	Re1	Qa8
14	Bg5	h6
15	Bd2	e6
16	dxe6	fxe6
17	Qc2	g5
18	a4	g4
19	hxg4	Nxg4
20	Bf4	d5
21	Nb5	e5
22	Nc7	Qa7
23	Nxa6	exf4
24	exd5	Qxa6
25	Re6	Qb7
26	Re7	fxg3
27	Qg6	Qxb2
28	Ra2	Ne3+
29	Kh3	gxf2
30	Rxb2	f1Q+
31	Kh2	Nf5
32	Rg2	Qxg2+
33	Kxg2	Nxe7
34	Qe6+	Rf7
35	Qxd7	Nf5
36	Qc8+	Bf8
37	Ne5	Rg7+
38	Kh3	Nd6
39	Qe6+	Kh7
40	Nd7	Be7
41	Nxc5	Black resigns

Diagram of first game

a b c d e f g h

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

ATHLETICS

Return to colours for Coe

By David Powell
Athletics correspondent

BRITISH athletics is run by former athletes but, for all the medals today's men in suits won when they were heroes in tracksuits, none has the display of badges to match the latest recruit. Sebastian Coe, double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and multiple world record-breaker, returned to the sport yesterday as chairman of events for the company that promotes track meetings in Britain.

Nine years after retiring from competitive running, Coe has taken on a lead role with Fast Track, whose head is Alan Pascoe, the 1974 European and Commonwealth 400 metres hurdles champion.

David Hemery, the 1968 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, is president of UK Athletics and its chief executive is David Moorcroft, a double Commonwealth Games middle-distance champion. Brendan Foster, the 1974 European 5,000 metres champion, is head of Nova International, which puts on most of Britain's televised road races.

One of the few Foster cannot claim is the London Marathon but David Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record-holder, can. He is head of marketing. Coe, however, is the only one to have been personal trainer to the Leader of the Opposition.

Adding to his duties as William Hague's chief of staff, Coe became his lifestyle coach. Now the former Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne, who lost his seat at the last election, is ready to take up an advisory role with Fast Track. He will continue his work at Westminster.

Coe's name will lend weight to Britain's bid to host the 2003 world championships. British athletics has been rocked by drugs scandals, bankruptcy and poor attendances of late, but the scales have been balanced by the success of the athletes. "There is a lot to shout about but also a lot to get right," Coe said.

RIPON

ROB WRIGHT
2.20 Smart Ridge
2.50 Maiella
3.25 Ice
4.00 Bowlers Boy
4.35 Admirals Secret
5.10 The Quare Fellow
5.45 Gallant Glory
6.15 Angels Venture

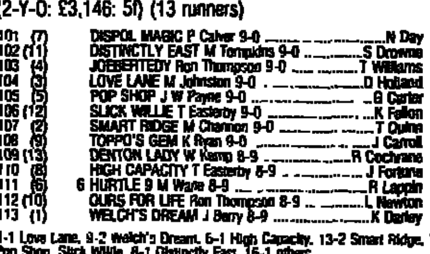
Our Newmarket correspondent: 3.25 Canta Ke Brave. 5.10 THE QUARE FELLOW (nap). 6.15 Angels Venture.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.20 EBF SPA WELTER MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,146: 5f) (13 runners)

101 (7) DISPOL MAGIC P Calver 9-0 N Day –
102 (11) DISTINCTLY EAST M Tompkins 9-0 S Drowne –
103 (4) JOEBERTEDY Ron Thompson 9-0 T Williams –
104 (3) LOVE LANE M Johnston 9-0 D Holland –
105 (5) POP SHOP J W Payne 9-0 G Carter –
106 (12) SLICK WILLIE T Easterby 9-0 K Fallon –
107 (2) SMART RIDGE M Channon 9-0 T Quinn –
108 (9) TOPPO'S GEM K Ryan 9-0 J Carroll –
109 (13) DENTON LADY W Kemp 8-9 R Cochrane –
110 (8) HIGH CAPACITY T Easterby 8-9 J Fortune –
111 (6) 6 HURTLE 9 M Wane 8-9 R Lappin –
112 (10) OURS FOR LIFE Ron Thompson 8-9 L Newton –
113 (1) WELCH'S DREAM J Berry 8-9 K Darley –

4-1 Love Lane, 9-2 Welch's Dream, 6-1 High Capacity, 13-2 Smart Ridge, 7-1 Pop Shop, Slick Willie, 8-1 Distinctly East, 16-1 others.



2.50 MARKINGTON SELLING HANDICAP
(£2,369: 1m 4f 60yd) (19)

201 (7) -000 TYPHOON EIGHT 7 (D,G) D Nicholls 7-9-10 Alex Greaves 61
202 (13) 400- MAIELLA 40J (D,F) T Easterby 4-9-6 K Darley 63
203 (11) 400- KING'S HUSSAR 35J (V) G M Moore 4-9-5 F Lynch 60
204 (16) 0352 HILLZAH 22 (BF,D,F,G) R Bastiman 11-9-1 Dean McKeown 64
205 (19) 000- DISCRETION 175 S Gollings 4-8-12 J Weaver 63
206 (14) 5600 PORTITE SOPHIE 61 (S) M Brittain 8-8-7 D Mernagh (5) 68
207 (3) -003 DR WOODSTOCK 6 W Storey 5-8-6 T Williams 66
208 (17) 05-5 SIMPLE IDEALS 6 N Tinkler 5-8-6 Pat Eddery 60
209 (5) 600- PICCADILLY 161 Miss K Milligan 4-8-2 G Carter [illegible]
210 (1) 6-03 RUBY BEAR 9 W Brisbourne 4-8-2 J McAuley (7) 77
211 (9) 0440 AJDAR 19J (V,D) Mrs S Lamyman 8-8-2 G Duffield 63
212 (2) 0-03 BROUGHTON SIREN 28 W Musson 4-8-1 J Quinn 52
213 (15) 600- SHOTLEY MARIE 245 N Bycroft 4-8-0 P Fessey 52
214 (12) 0042 SUPER-GEM 28 J Walmwright 4-8-0 G Bardwell 53
215 (4) 604- GROVEFAIR LAD 218J (D) S Bowring 5-7-12 Dale Gibson 53
216 (8) 000- GOLDENGIRLMICHELLE 14J F Murphy 4-7-11 Jenny Benson (7) 52
217 (18) 3520 MODEST HOPE 44 (D,F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 12-7-10 A Polli (3) 70
218 (6) -060 THE COTTONWOOL KID 30 (V) Mrs A Naughton 7-7-10 N Kennedy –
219 (10) 000- FLORISMART 310 B Baugh 7-7-10 Iona Wands (5) –

11-2 Broughton Siren, 6-1 Hillzah, 7-1 Maiella, 8-1 Dr Woodstock, 10-1 others.

3.25 GALPHAY CLASSIFIED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £6,068: 1m 1f) (7)

301 (5) 2343 ADELPHI BOY 11 M Chapman 8-12 S Righton 80
302 (3) 112- BRING SWEETS 133 (S) B Hills 8-12 M Hills 72
303 (7) 214- CANTA KE BRAVE 179 (F) S Woods 8-12 K Fallon 83
304 (2) 121- ICE 181 (V,G) M Johnston 8-12 D Holland [illegible]
305 (1) 210- JOYEUX PLAYER 171 (G,S) J Dunlop 8-12 Pat Eddery 79
306 (6) 215- MENSA 252 (S) M Tompkins 8-10 S Drowne 88
307 (4) 43-6 SERGEANT YORK 11 (S) C Smith 8-10 K Darley 90

11-4 Joyeux Player, Ice, 9-2 Bring Sweets, Canta Ke Brave, 13-2 Mensa, 12-1 others.

4.00 FOUNTAINS HANDICAP (£6,770: 6f) (23)

401 (18) 5660 CLASSY CLEO 11 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 4-10-0 C Cogan (7) 106
402 (22) 100- KAYO 164 (D,F,G,S) T Etherington 4-9-13 D Holland 97
403 (15) 630- MARTON MOSS 156 (CD,F,S) T Easterby 4-9-11 K Darley 98
404 (17) 05-2 MISTER RAMBO 12 (D,G) B Meehan 4-9-8 Pat Eddery 103
405 (6) 5-50 LEVELLED 13 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 5-9-8 T Quinn 106
406 (19) 0500 ZIGGY'S DANCER 13 (D,F,G) E Alston 8-9-7 Melanie Worden (7) 93
407 (1) 006- LAGO DI VARANO 165 (C,F,G,S) R Whitaker 7-9-6 Dean McKeown 105
408 (4) 063- ELLENS LAD 165 (F,G) W Musson 5-9-6 P Shea (7) 103
409 (21) 00-0 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 12 (V,C,D,F,G,S) D Shaw 9-9-4 R Winston (3) 96
410 (5) 034- PURE COINCIDENCE 166 (F) W Musson 4-9-3 R Price 80
411 (9) 410- ROYAL RESULT 182 (BF,D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-2 Alex Greaves 108
412 (12) 0-32 NIGHT FLIGHT 13 (D,G,S) R Fahey 5-9-2 K Fallon 103
413 (8) 00-0 JAYANNPEE 12 (T,D,F,G,S) I Balding 8-9-2 A Nicholls (5) 98
414 (3) 00-5 DOUBLE ACTION 12 (CD,G) T Easterby 5-9-1 J Fortune [illegible]
415 (20) 40-0 PIPS MAGIC 13 (CD,F,G) J Goldie 3-9-0 A Culhane 89
416 (16) 000- THE PUZZLER 179 (D,G,S) B Hills 8-8-12 M Hills 105
417 (13) 0-00 GREY KINGDOM 8 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 8-8-12 D Mernagh (5) 103
418 (2) 121- BOWLERS BOY 156 (CD,F,G,S) J J Quinn 6-8-11 J Carroll 106
419 (14) 530- BENZOE 156 (D,F,G,S) A Turnell 9-8-6 P Goode (5) 106
420 (7) 061- PEPPERDINE 185 (G) D Nicholls 3-8-3 F Norton 101
421 (10) 000- EMPIRE STATE 166 (D,G,S) P Felgate 4-8-1 G Duffield 103
422 (11) 0555 YOUNG BIGWIG 8 (D,F,S) D Chapman 5-8-0 J Fanning 118
423 (23) 1123 MAITEAMIA 8 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 6-7-10 J Quinn 115

6-1 Night Flight, 7-1 Double Action, 10-1 Mister Rambo, Levelled, 12-1 Royal Result, Maiteamia, 14-1 Lago Di Varano, Jayannpee, Benzoe, 16-1 others.

4.35 STUDLEY ROYAL HANDICAP
(£2,957: 1m 4f 60yd) (20)

501 (5) 130- GENEROUS WAYS 183 (F) E Alston 4-9-12 K Fallon 70
502 (7) -046 TROJAN RISK 13 (F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-9 A Culhane 59
503 (16) 6400 MIGWAR 13 (D,F) N Littmoden 6-9-8 T G McLaughlin 77
504 (13) 1011 SWIFT 2 (C,D,F,G,S) M Polglase 5-9-7 (6ex) Dean McKeown [illegible]
505 (3) 650- THE PRESIDENT 144J Mrs M Reveley 4-9-6 S Copp (5) 54
506 (9) 610- CHRISTIANSTED 39J (D,S) F Murphy 4-9-6 R Cochrane –
507 (6) 500- KONKER 22J (G) G M Moore 4-9-5 F Lynch 82
508 (20) 44-0 ADMIRALS SECRET 13 (D,F,G) C Wall 10-9-5 G Hind 78
509 (2) 4202 ALDWYCH ARROW 7 (F,S) M A Buckley 4-9-3 T Quinn 82
510 (1) 203- IMPERIAL PRINCE 112 S Woods 4-9-3 G Duffield 74
511 (19) 000- RUM BABA 142J (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-13 G Carter –
512 (12) 5-62 CLUED UP 9 (V,D,F,G,S) P Evans 6-8-10 J Fortune 77
513 (17) 645- SEMI CIRCLE 174 (CD,G,S) T Easterby 4-8-9 K Darley 78
514 (15) 600- HAPPY DAYS 25J D Moffatt 4-8-6 O Pears 84
515 (11) 000- CAEROSA 183 M Johnston 4-8-6 D Holland 56
516 (10) 6110 LATIN BAY 44 (T,D,F) D Nicholls 4-8-3 A Nicholls (5) 77
517 (8) 3634 KARINSKA 13 (F,G,S) M Chapman 9-8-3 S Righton 55
518 (4) 060- NOIRIE 277 (S) M Brittain 5-8-0 D Mernagh (5) 46
519 (14) /00- SPONDULICKS 407J B Baugh 5-8-0 Dale Gibson –
520 (18) 00-3 GOLDEN ACE 9 (B,G,S) R Spicer 6-8-0 Martin Dwyer 82

5-1 Swift, 7-1 Christiansted, 8-1 Aldwych Arrow, Clued Up, 10-1 Admirals Secret, Semi Circle, Golden Ace, 12-1 others.

5.10 LEVY BOARD GRANTLEY MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: £3,014: 1m) (11)

601 (5) 602- ROYAL REPRIMAND 241 R Barr 4-9-13 N Kennedy 31
602 (4) 56 SPRINGWOOD 8 R Fahey 4-9-13 R Winston (3) 48
603 (7) 00 FINE AND ROSY 8 M Dods 4-9-8 Dale Gibson –
604 (9) BEYOND THE CLOUDS J Walmwright 3-8-12 G Bardwell –
605 (3) JAMMIE DODGER R Whitaker 3-8-12 Dean McKeown –
606 (2) 0 JOEY THE JOLLY 12 G Woodward 3-8-12 S D Williams –
607 (1) SUNSHINE BOY E Dunlop 3-8-12 K Fallon –
608 (11) 5- THE QUARE FELLOW 198 J Gosden 3-8-12 G Hind 54
609 (8) 50-3 CALICO LADY 8 W Kemp 3-8-7 J Quinn [illegible]
610 (6) 60- DIXIE JAZZ 172 Miss J A Camacho 3-8-7 R Cochrane 27
611 (10) ROSIE DREAM E Dunlop 3-8-7 Pat Eddery –

6-4 The Quare Fellow, 3-1 Sunshine Boy, 4-1 Rosie Dream, 8-1 Calico Lady, 14-1 Springwood, Dixie Jazz, 20-1 Royal Reprimand, 33-1 others.

5.45 SAWLEY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,996: 1m 2f) (23)

1 (19) 00-0 GALLANT GLORY 13 J Gosden 9-7 G Hind 48
2 (2) 00-1 RUM POINTER 7 (G) T Easterby 9-7 (6ex) J Fortune 47
3 (9) 052- HAYSTACKS 154 D Moffatt 9-6 J Weaver 53
4 (13) 1420 RAYWARE BOY 13 (B) D Shaw 9-1 J Quinn 45
5 (1) 502- BODFARI SIGNET 173 M W Easterby 9-0 S Finnamore (7) 50
6 (6) 560- SILENT SOUND 170 P Calver 8-13 N Day 36
7 (8) 405- GILOU 195 C Fairhurst 8-10 Dean McKeown 52
8 (10) 400- DANNY DEEVER 211 (B) D Thom 8-9 G Duffield 37
9 (14) 3144 ANNIE APPLE 34 (F) D Nicholls 8-8 P Clarke (7) 51
10 (4) 650- FERNY FACTORS 183 (S) Ron Thompson 8-7 R Cochrane 64
11 (12) 000- DAYRAVEN 163 (V) I Balding 8-6 A Nicholls (5) 56
12 (7) 1201 ULTRA CALM 32 P Haslam 8-5 P Goode (5) [illegible]
13 (20) -600 VIRBIUS 6 J Hetherton 8-4 K Darley 37
14 (16) 06-0 MEGS PEARL 13 P Evans 8-2 R Mullen (3) 53
15 (21) 5-56 MIRAGGIO 44 H Morrison 8-2 C Rutter 47
16 (23) 5640 ABSTRACT 28 J Walmwright 8-0 G Bardwell 50
17 (11) 545 FLOSSY 35 C Thornton 7-13 Dale Gibson 54
18 (3) 00-0 DISPOL TRUMP 28 P Calver 7-12 J McAuley (7) 48
19 (15) 506- LADY IONA 211 M Wane 7-11 P Fessey 53
20 (17) 206- FASTWAN 159 J Goldie 7-10 N Kennedy –
21 (5) 060- BISHOPSTONE POND 197 S Mellor 7-10 Iona Wands (5) 34
22 (18) 00-0 NIGHTGLADE 7 M Brittain 7-10 D Mernagh (5) 32
23 (22) -010 TROIS ELLES 67 R Spicer 7-10 A Polli (3) 43

5-1 Rum Pointer, 6-1 Ultra Calm, 13-2 Flossy, 8-1 Gallant Glory, 10-1 Haystacks, Silent Sound, 12-1 Bodfari Signet, Megs Pearl, 16-1 others.

6.15 LEVY BOARD GRANTLEY MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: £2,998: 1m) (11)

1 (2) 0 SILVER PRINCE 8 D Nicholls 4-9-13 Alex Greaves –
2 (6) 0/6 WIRA 9 M Brittain 5-9-13 D Mernagh (5) 23
3 (3) -000 TOWNVILLE CEE CEE 46 G Woodward 4-9-8 S D Williams 36
4 (8) 4- ANGELS VENTURE 174 S Woods 3-8-12 Dane O'Neill 65
5 (4) 0- MILDON 263 E Weymes 3-8-12 J Weaver 39
6 (10) SOLFEGGI B Hills 3-8-12 M Hills –
7 (9) 32-3 TIER WORKER 12 T Easterby 3-8-12 J Fortune [illegible]
8 (11) 030- GO SALLY GO 285 F Murphy 3-8-7 T Williams 48
9 (1) 0- HANNAH PARK 177 M Bell 3-8-7 M Fenton 50
10 (5) 0-5 TRIMILKI 16 T Etherington 3-8-7 O Pears 27
11 (7) TRUE LOVE E Dunlop 3-8-7 K Darley –

6-4 Angels Venture, 3-1 Solfeggi, 5-1 Tier Worker, True Love, 16-1 Silver Prince, Hannah Park, 25-1 Go Sally Go, Trimilki, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: I Balding, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; S Woods, 6 from 17, 35.3%; J Dunlop, 10 from 37, 27.0%; J Goldie, 3 from 17, 17.6%; E Weymes, 6 from 35, 17.1%, M Johnston, 17 from 100, 17.0%; B Hills, 6 from 36, 16.7%; M Channon, 6 from 38, 15.8%; J Gosden, 7 from 46, 15.2%, P Evans, 3 from 20, 15.0%

JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; K Darley, 34 from 140, 24.3%, J McAuley, 3 from 13, 23.1%; K Fallon, 22 from 101, 21.8%; G Hind, 10 from 48, 20.8%, D Holland, 9 from 46, 19.6%; R Cochrane, 11 from 58, 19.0%; G Carter, 10 from 54, 18.5%, J Weaver, 16 from 100, 16.0%; L Newton, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VERTICLE
a. A dog-cart
b. Passing through the zenith
c. A vertebra

YOUF
a. The midriff
b. A new boy at Westminster
c. A suppressed bark

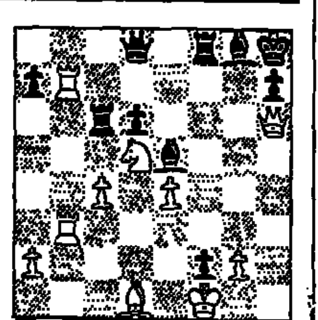
YUG
a. Bulgarian yoghurt
b. A mountain sledge
c. An epoch

VARICELLA
a. An Alpine plant
b. Chicken-pox
c. A wild Catalan dance

Answers on page 41

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Anand — Topalov, Monaco 1999.

Viswanathan Anand is one of the quickest tactical visionaries in the world. It would not have taken him long to spot White's winning combination here. What did he play?

Solution on page 41

RACING: JOCKEY STRIVES TO OVERCOME INJURY AND RIDE SUNY BAY IN NATIONAL

Bradley keeps dream alive

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

BY ANNUAL ritual, Grand National week supplies human drama exhausting in its quantity and emotion but the battle confronting Graham Bradley is compelling even by Aintree standards. Bradley is striving to preserve one final career dream as a jockey in the week when his other concern is the preservation of his liberty. Last night, against heavy odds, he was refusing to accept the dream is dead.

This was always going to be a poignant National for Bradley, not only because he has never won the race, nor that he was such a gallant runner-up a year ago, nor even because, at 38, time is so short. For this Yorkshireman of roguish humour and undimmed enthusiasm, there was another matter to concentrate the mind.

Three days after the race, Bradley must report back to Charing Cross police station, from where he has been freed on bail since his arrest in early January by a force investigating alleged doping and race-fixing. It promised to be a demanding week, even before his prized ride on Suny Bay was so abruptly jeopardised.

In the agonised hours after his fall from Rightsaidfred in the Irish Grand National on Monday, Bradley was reconciled to the worst. "I thought I'd smashed my shoulder to smithereens," he reflected yesterday. "I was in so much pain I thought there was no chance of riding at Aintree."

Today in *Interface*: How to bet on the Grand National via the Internet

Now, remarkably, optimism has returned.

After resting his wounds in Dublin overnight, Bradley flew home yesterday for an immediate appointment with 'Rabbit' Slattery, the physiotherapist who spends much of her life tending to the ravages of a jockey's singular existence. She gave him better news than he had dared to hope for.

"All I have done is sprung a joint between the collarbone and shoulder," Bradley explained with the blitheness of a man reporting a grazed knee. "I haven't done it badly, either, which is amazing as the first thoughts in Ireland were that I had broken the collarbone and dislocated the shoulder. I've done neither and I honestly think I'm going to make it.

"I've been told I must give it complete rest tomorrow, then I shall have some physio on Thursday and plan to ride out on Friday morning. If I'm on target, I will then ride one horse at Liverpool that afternoon — I must do that to prove my fitness to the owner and trainer, and most of all to myself."

The Grand National remains the nagging omission in Bradley's career and Suny Bay, second in the last two runnings, is primed to provide the fairytale. "It is every jockey's dream and I won't get a better chance now. Time is running out for me and although I've got no wish to pack up yet, this ride means an awful lot."

Observing events with interest yesterday was Charlie Brooks, who trained Suny Bay until his retirement last summer and who must accompany Bradley to answer his own bail in the same inquiry next Tuesday. Brooks admits he will have mixed feelings on Saturday but he said: "I just feel it would be a major blow to the horse's chance if 'Brad' couldn't ride."

For Simon Sherwood, who succeeded Brooks at the Uplands yard in Lambourn, jockey uncertainty is an unwanted complication. Yesterday, though, he coolly put himself in Bradley's hands. "I thought he would be very unlikely to ride after a fall like that but while there is a possibility I will give him time," he said.

"I could do without all this but I'm prepared to sit on the fence until Friday. Naturally, I'm looking around at who else is available and I will have someone on standby. My phone has been ringing all morning with suggestions but Dean Gallagher — who has ridden him before — must be a strong candidate, along with Jason Titley and Warren Marston. There may be others, if intended runners are pulled out."

Bradley: hopeful

Yankie Lord, trained by Sherwood for the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, was second at Uttoxeter yesterday with Tony McCoy deputising for Bradley. McCoy, however, is committed to a fancied National runner in Eudipe, one of a battalion heading for Aintree to represent the champion owner, David Johnson, whose title is under heavy threat from J. P. McManus.

Istabraq, McManus's flagship, remains on target for the Aintree Hurdle on Saturday, while the highlight of tomorrow will be the Martell Cup, in which Tony Dobbin expects to be fit to ride Go Ballistic despite sustaining heavy bruising to ribs and shoulder on Monday. Jump jockeys are a staggeringly stoical bunch.

□ The going at Aintree is described as soft and good to soft in places on the Grand National course. Spokesman Ian Renton believes there will be some give, although only light rain is forecast between now and Saturday.



Bradley and Suny Bay, far side, were denied by Earth Summit in the National last year

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wetherby

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Forever Noble** (J A McCarthy, 3-1), 2, Fullopep (6-1), 3, Royal Castle (7-4 fav). 19 ran. NR: Happy Days. 1¼l, 1½l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.90; £1.30, £2.40, £1.20. DF: £11.90. CSF: £18.79.

2.50 (2m ch) 1, **Sissinghurst Flyer** (P Niven, 10-1); 2, Queensway (9-1), 3, Minster Glory (11-4 fav). 11 ran. 1½l, 6l. R Dickin. Tote: £10.30; £2.10, £2.50, £1.60. DF: £79.90. CSF: £88.72. Tricast: £288.88.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Once More For Luck** (M H Naughton, 100-30 fav), 2, Bakkar (5-1), 3, Tara-Brogan (13-2). 8 ran. NR: No Gimmicks. 2½l, nk. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £20.40. CSF: £19.35. Tricast: £94.30.

3.50 (3m 5f ch) 1, **Invest Wisely** (B Harding, 5-1), 2, Spirit of Steel (11-4 fav); 3, Shore Party (9-2). 7 ran. NR: Master Nova, Riot Leader, Scotton Green, Young Tomo. 2l, 8l. M Hammond. Tote: £6.10; £2.40, £1.60. DF: £5.60. CSF: £16.36. Tricast: £53.29.

4.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Trade Dispute** (Mr G Tuer, 8-11 fav), 2, Joint Account (3-1); 3, Three Potato Four (33-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, dist. E Tuer. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £2.86.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, **Lord Dorcet** (B Storey, 20-1), 2, Ring of Vision (9-2), 3, Farfields Prince (3-1 fav). 9 ran. ¾l, sh hd. J Charlton. Tote: £12.20; £2.90, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £62.20. CSF: £101.65. Tricast: £325.10.

Placepot: £6.80. **Quadpot:** £4.70.

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Big Atoll** (R Johnson, 6-1), 2, Damien's Choice (33-1), 3, Dunston Bill (16-1). Ron's Round 11-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Bukehorn, Little Kenny. 2½l, 2½l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £5.20; £2.10, £7.30, £5.40. DF: £316.10. CSF: £174.37. Tricast: £2,726.40.

2.30 (2m 7f ch) 1, **Secret Bay** (Mr S Swiers, 5-2), 2, Castleroyal (12-1); 3, Desperate (10-1). Tombola evens fav. 14 ran. NR: Dande Dove, Mickleover. 4l, 10l. C Dennis. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £2.80, £1.90. DF: £21.30. CSF: £28.79.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, **Tom Pinch** (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav), 2, Capo Castanum (33-1), 3, Mr Perkupp (12-1); 4, Salcolino (6-1). 17 ran. NR: Fasturi Gold. 12l, 13l. G Balding. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £9.30, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £58.10. CSF: £62.21. Tricast: £535.38.

3.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Tremallt** (T Jenks, 13-8 fav), 2, Yankee Lord (2-1), 3, Exact (25-1). 8 ran. NR: Tight Fist. 13l, 5l. T George. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.20, £3.60. DF: £3.60. CSF: £5.38. Tricast: £47.29.

4.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Devoski** (S Kelly, 6-4 fav), 2, Kingdom Emperor (6-1), 3, Get The Point (10-1). 9 ran. ¾l, nk. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £1.80, £2.70. DF: £9.60. CSF: £10.58. Tricast: £61.55.

4.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Specialize** (A P McCoy, 13-2), 2, Dovetto (7-1); 3, Oriental Style (12-1). Rare Occurance 4-1 fav. 10 ran. NR: Purbeck Cavalier. 15l, 11l. K Burke. Tote: £7.20; £1.90, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £16.10. CSF: £48.45. Tricast: £493.90.

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Orsuno** (A P McCoy, 5-4 fav); 2, Kasid (20-1); 3, Wurlitzer (9-2). 16 ran. 14l, hd. M Hammond. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £3.90, £1.80. DF: £23.50. CSF: £33.48.

Jackpot: £5,235.10.

Placepot: £95.50. **Quadpot:** £8.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.10 (7f) 1, **Cambrian Blue** (K Fallon, 20-1), 2, Tess (10-11 fav); 3, Ice Pack (7-1). 10 ran. ½l, 8l. T Easterby. Tote: £21.90; £2.00, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £17.80. CSF: £34.88.

2.40 (5f) 1, **E B Pearl** (Martin Dwyer, 11-1), 2, Gochinos (9-2); 3, Amber Jasmine (4-5 fav). 9 ran. Nk, 1½l. N Bycroft. Tote: £10.80; £1.80, £1.40, £1.20. DF: £19.00. CSF: £54.86.

3.10 (1m) 1, **The Stager** (L Dettori, 3-1 fav); 2, Killarney Jazz (4-1); 3, Chinaberry (16-1). 14 ran. Nk, 3l. J Jenkins. Tote: £5.50; £2.10, £2.70, £9.70. DF: £10.60. CSF: £15.66. Tricast: £173.48.

3.40 (7f) 1, **Garnock Valley** (G Carter, 13-2); 2, Mawkab (9-4 fav). 3, Sharp Steel (20-1). 15 ran. NR: Nutty Stan. Sh hd, sh hd. J Berry. Tote: £7.30; £2.20, £1.70, £7.10. DF: £9.00. CSF: £20.48.

4.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Hill Farm Dancer** (D Hayden, 11-4); 2, Artic Courier (5-2 fav). 3, Brereche (3-1). 6 ran. NR: Carol Again. 8l, 4l. W Brisbourne. Tote: £4.40; £2.00, £1.30. DF: £4.80. CSF: £9.44.

4.40 (1m 3f) 1, **Chalcedony** (J Fortune, 3-1). 2, The Last Word (8-1); 3, Netherhall (33-1). Bustling Rio (4th) 4-5 fav. 9 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. T Barron. Tote: £4.70; £1.40, £2.00, £5.90. DF: £21.00. CSF: £28.19. Tricast: £643.25.

Placepot: £77.30. **Quadpot:** £29.60.

□ *Jump jockey Jason Callaghan will be out of action for a few days after a fall at Carlisle on Easter Monday. Callaghan, whose mount Dynamic Lord was brought down in a novices' hurdle, said: "I thought I might have broken some ribs but luckily it's just bad bruising. I'll take it easy for a couple of days and hopefully will be back at the end of this week or the beginning of next."*

ASCOT

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Kings Boy
2.30 Bitofamixup
3.05 Paddy's Return
3.40 Premier Generation (nb)
4.20 Eagles Rest
5.00 Broad Steane
5.35 STONE'S THROW (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.40 **CHAI-YO.**

Carl Evans: 5.00 Skip'N'Time.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) — SIS

2.00 GROSVENOR CASINOS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,729: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1 31 KINGS BOY 79 (D,G) (C Frewin) N Henderson 5-11-6 .... M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
2 5061 MOTET 12 (T,F) (H Jarvis) M Pitman 5-11-6 .... T J Murphy 80
3 F40213 PERCY PARKEEPER 18 (G,S) (Mr & Mrs P Orton) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 .C Llewellyn 90
4 0P ALHERI 128 (R Fanshawe) J De Giles 8-11-2 .... Mr R Forristal (5) —
5 BLAKE'S LAW (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P R Webber 5-11-2 .... J A McCarthy —
6 6 CEZANNE 148 (M Roberts) M J Roberts 10-11-2 .... T Peoples (7) 32
7 P1/1-P CRACK REGIMENT 29 (G,S) (Twentyman) R Buckler 7-11-2 .... B Powell —
8 0 HONEY DANCE 15 (BF) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 4-10-4 .... G Supple (3) —

BETTING: 5-4 Kings Boy, 5-2 Percy Parkeeper, 7-2 Motet, 14-1 Crack Regiment, Honey Dance, 20-1 others.

1998: BETTER OFFER 6-11-8 A P McCoy (6-4 fav) Mrs A Perrett 9 ran

KINGS BOY can take his hurdles score to two from two. A half-brother to the useful staying hurdler Pleasure Shared, the selection confirmed the promise of his debut bumper third when trotting up from Forever Noble at Doncaster (2m 4f) on his jumping bow. Percy Parkeeper appeals as the main threat but, though more experienced than Kings Boy, he is yet to convince with his jumping. He jumped with greater fluency than before when beating Stormworthy Miss 8l at Kempton (2m 5f) in February but was again less than foot perfect when below that form subsequently. Motet, a useful stayer on the Flat for Geoff Wragg, and Cezanne, winner of the Irish Champion Stakes at five-years but subsequently a failure at stud, are still learning the trade in this sphere. The former showed that he was going the right way when beating Tales Of Bounty ¾l at Newbury (2m 5f) last month.

2.30 ALLIED IRISH BANK HANDICAP CHASE (£9,885: 2m 3f 110yd) (9) — BBC2

1 -155P1 SUPER TACTICS 39 (D,F,G,S) (H Perry) R Alner 11-11-10 .... A Thornton 138
2 -02P20 BERTONE 118 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs H Dutley) K Bailey 10-11-3 .... N Williamson [illegible]
3 2-31U0 NORTHERN STARLIGHT 21 (D,F,G,S) (A South) M Pipe 8-10-9 .... A P McCoy 121
4 2312-P MONNAIE FORTE 67 (D,F,G,S) (J Adams) J Adam 9-10-3 .... B Powell 152
5 U41555 PHILIP'S WOODY 21 (D,F,G,S) (B Wilsdon) N Henderson 11-10-3 .M A Fitzgerald 154
6 22036U CHIEF'S SONG 39 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 9-10-1 .... R Dunwoody 144
7 /11-31 WISE KING 40 (G,S) (D Milne) J Old 9-10-0 .... T J Murphy 132
8 221-64 BITOFAMIXUP 25 (T,F,G,S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 8-10-0 .... Mr R Forristal (5) 149
9 4-14P4 MOON DEVIL 12 (BF,G,S) (Sir Colin Southgate) M Campion 9-10-0 .. C Llewellyn 119

BETTING: 11-4 Monnaie Forte, 7-2 Super Tactics, 6-1 Bertone, 7-1 Northern Starlight, Wise King, 8-1 Philip's Woody, 10-1 Chief's Song, 12-1 others.

1998: BERTONE 9-11-10 A Thornton (8-1) K Bailey 8 ran

PHILIP'S WOODY can be fancied after returning an excellent effort in defeat in the Mildmay Of Flete at Cheltenham (17l fifth of 18 to Majadou after being brought to a virtual standstill at the ninth) and with the drying ground in his favour. Nicky Henderson's charge races off the same mark here as at the Festival, just 3lb higher than when readily beating Wayward King 9l at Doncaster (2m 3½f) in December. Northern Starlight, below his best when behind the selection (10th) in the Mildmay, remains 7lb higher in the weights than when winning the Tripleprint Chase at Cheltenham in December (Bertone well beaten and absent since), and Super Tactics is likely to have a bigger say here. Best on a right-handed track and very effective fresh, he returned to something like his best when beating Kadastrof a short-head at Kempton (2m) in February. Monnaie Forte has a pleasing wins-to-runs ratio and has run well here in the past. However, he finished distressed when disappointing on his reappearance at Cheltenham in January and may be best watched on this occasion.

READING THE RACECARD

13 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.05 GROSVENOR CASINOS LONG DISTANCE HURDLE (Grade II: £18,750: 3m) (7) — BBC2

1 11-P0P LORD JIM 20 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Thomas) J Old 7-11-10 .... T J Murphy 86
2 -3F446 PADDY'S RETURN 20 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 7-11-10 .. A Maguire 102
3 0-5211 BERLIN BLUE 12 (D,F,G) (P Douglas Engineering) R Stronge 6-11-3 Mr S Stronge 112
4 0-P332 BOROTOWN LORD 14 (BF) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 6-11-3 .... M A Fitzgerald 103
5 223233 GALANT MOSS 22 (BF,G) (C, B & R Batterham) M Pipe 5-11-3 .... A P McCoy [illegible]
6 134121 JUST NIP 25 (C,F,G,S) (B Seal, D & M Evans) Mrs L Richards 6-11-3 J A McCarthy 137
7 -01311 TEAATRAL 60 (B,G,S) (B Gover Bloodstock Trading Ltd) C Egerton 5-11-3 N Williamson 129

● Teaatral will run only if there is sufficient overnight rain to make the ground good or softer.

BETTING: 9-4 Galant Moss, 5-2 Paddy's Return, 9-2 Teaatral, 11-2 Just Nip, 10-1 Lord Jim, 12-1 others.

1998: MARELLO 7-11-5 P Niven (11-4) Mrs M Reveley 7 ran

PADDY'S RETURN, winner of the Long Walk Hurdle here last season, can mark his return to Berkshire with a return to winning ways. He is yet to rediscover that sort of form this season after a novice chase campaign was aborted after two starts, but has had to endure ground softer than ideal and is only now getting his optimum conditions. Though unable to take a hand in the finish, he ran well when 32l sixth to Anzum in the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham (Lord Jim pulled up) last time out. Galant Moss was one of the gambles of the Festival when finishing third, beaten 6½l by Generosa, in the Stakis Casino Handicap (3m 2f). However, his failure to score off a mark of 126 suggests he has improvement to make to trouble the selection. Teaatral must be a doubtful starter with connections warning that he will only run if rain eases the ground to good or softer. A progressive performer, he impressed when beating Just Nip (2lb worse off) 3½l off a mark of 123 at Sandown (2m 6f) in February.

3.40 BRUNSWICK HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£5,948: 2m 110yd) (12) — BBC2

1 50-106 CHAI-YO 41 (D,G,S) (N Viney) J Old 9-12-0 .... T J Murphy [illegible]
2 2126P6 DICTAMN 86 (G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-9 .... A P McCoy 103
3 -12110 PREMIER GENERATION 20 (D,G,S) N Henderson 6-11-4 .... M A Fitzgerald 130
4 111360 OUT RANKING 60 (D,F,G,S) (Knight Hawks Partnership) M Pipe 7-11-3 .. M Foster 112
5 121420 HOH INVADER 22 (D,F,S) (D Allport) C Mann 7-11-2 .... R Dunwoody 99
6 156004 REAL ESTATE 11 (CD,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 5-11-1 .... R Johnson 128
7 32F-60 ALABANG 25 (D,G) (Elite Racing Club) Miss J A Camacho 8-11-0 ... N Williamson 55
8 2/P-22 WARM SPELL 18 (BF,D,G) (Brighthelm Racing) G L Moore 9-10-13 . M Batchelor (5) 130
9 321121 SILVER MINX 186 (D,F,G,S) (V W H Hunt P'ship) J De Giles 7-10-11 Mr R Forristal (5) 127
10 031145 SHOOFK 49 (BF,D,S) (S Devine) S Dow 8-10-3 .... A Maguire 109
11 2-2823 ALKA INTERNATIONAL 21 (BF,D,S) (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 7-10-0 .X Aizpuru (3) 114
12 4/3-00 SERIOUS 13 (D,F,G) (T & D Lousada) S Dow 9-10-0 .... Mr P Flynn (7) 34

BETTING: 7-2 Warm Spell, 9-2 Silver Minx, 8-1 Premier Generation, 8-1 Hoh Invader, Alabang, 10-1 others.

1998: RUBHAHUNISH 7-10-7 L Harvey (7-2) M Bosley 6 ran

HOH INVADER was unable to match strides with the leaders past halfway in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival but can be fancied on his return to handicap ranks. A brother to the high-class Dato Star, his claims rest on his previous 1¾l second to Ginger Fox at Doncaster (2m 110yd) in February. Premier Generation was another to falter at the Festival (always behind, 18th of 28 to Sir Talbot in the County Hurdle), but had previously posted some useful efforts in novice company, beating Davoski in a grade two event at Kempton, and he cannot be ruled out. Silver Minx, sold out of Mary Reveley's yard for 25,000gns, has a lengthy absence to overcome, while Alabang ran no sort of race when last seen in the Imperial Cup at Sandown. Topweight Chai-Yo has twice disappointed since his reappearance victory at Sandown (2m) in November but would not surprise if bouncing back with the ground now coming right for him. Warm Spell, second on both of his starts this season, most recently behind Pealings at Lingfield, is creeping up the weights without winning.

4.20 PARTNERSHIP PARADE NOVICES CHASE (£5,980: 2m 3f 110yd) (3)

1 P-1120 DARK STRANGER 21 (S) (T Neill) M Pipe 8-11-12 .... A P McCoy [illegible]
2 62/12U EAGLES REST 46 (S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 8-11-12 .. M A Fitzgerald 117
3 /0-P46 MASTER CHUZZLEWIT 12 (T) (S Griffiths) S G Griffiths 9-11-4 .... B Powell —

BETTING: 4-5 Eagles Rest, 11-10 Dark Stranger, 25-1 Master Chuzzlewit

1998: THE LAND AGENT 7-11-4 R Guest (8-1) J Mullins 3 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

Effectively a match with DARK STRANGER taken to get the better of Eagles Rest. He picked up a couple of minor races before coming unstuck in better company, notably when 12th to Majadou at Cheltenham last time. There is not much to choose between him and Eagles Rest, who was well beaten when unseating here last time but had previously finished 16l second to Cheltenham winner Flagship Uberalles at Kempton (2m). However, Dark Stranger is proven up at up to three miles whereas Eagles Rest has been racing at two miles and could find his stamina stretched on a stiff track. Martin Chuzzlewit is for optimists only.

5.00 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£2,762. 3m 110yd) (9)

1 -12221 BROAD STEANE 4P (BF,D,F,G,S) Lady Connell 10-12-7 .... Miss H Irving (7) [illegible]
2 4-R331 CHISM 13 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Webber) Miss L Alner 8-12-7 .... Mr J D Moore (5) 30
3 U3-111 SKIP'N'TIME 27 (D,F,G,S) (M Rose) B N Miller 9-12-7 .... Mr M G Miller (5) 50
4 3P-332 ALEX THUSCOMBE 11P (B,D,F,G) (Peter Shaw) Mrs P Shaw 11-12-0 Mr P Shaw (7) —
5 PS-2F3 A RIGHT SET TWO 19 (D,G) (J Short) Ms Melanie Dwer 7-12-0 .... Mr N King (7) —
6 DONALLACH MOR (Mrs Charles Sample) Miss V Williams 7-12-0 Miss S Vickery (3) —
7 203P-3 INDIAN CROW 27 (D,G) (P Wills) P Wills 12-12-0 .... Mr J Trice-Rolph (3) 60
8 PP4-U4 LIVE WIRE 31P (D,S) (C Trietline) C Trietline 8-12-0 .... Mr G Hanmer (5) —
9 /PRPP5 SOLAR WARRIOR 14 (S Kitching) S Kitching 9-12-0 .... Mr N Kent (7) 35

BETTING: 6-4 Skip'N'Time, 11-4 Broad Steane, 6-1 Donallach Mor, 7-1 Chism, 10-1 Alex Thuscombe, 14-1 A Right Set Two, 16-1 Indian Crow, 25-1 others.

1998: JOY FOR LIFE 7-11-9 Mr S Stronge (5-2) Mrs B Stronge 8 ran

SKIP'N'TIME added to his two point-to-point wins this season with an emphatic success in a hunter chase at Wincanton last month, always travelling well and beating Comedy Gayle by 13l. He will take plenty of catching here. Broad Steane is certainly consistent but lacks a bit of finishing pace and often finds one too good for him. He can, though, be expected to run his usual solid race and provide the main danger. Chism was 3½l behind Skip'N'Time when the pair were third and fourth to King Torus at Wincanton last season, and is again likely to be held by the selection. Donallach Mor represents a top stable and cannot be lightly dismissed.

5.35 BRUNSWICK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,038: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 -26131 PIETRO BEMBO 19 (D,G,S) (F Miller) J Akehurst 5-11-10 .... T J Murphy [illegible]
2 -11660 ALHOSAAM 11 (BF,G,S) (N Clark) G L Moore 5-11-8 .... P Hide 107
3 214335 SADLER'S SECRET 25 (B,BF,S) (A Helaissi) M Pipe 4-10-13 .... A P McCoy 83
4 531 INTERDREAM 13 (D,G) (M Heaton) C Mann 5-10-12 .... R Dunwoody 82
5 33212U KRABLOONIK 58 (BF,D,S) (Mrs D Pester) J Mullins 5-10-12 .... A Thornton 102
6 0241-6 SHAHBOOR 164 (D,F) (Sir Evelyn De Rothschild) Mrs P Robeson 5-10-9 .M Richards 115
7 003510 FARU 89 (D,S) (J Ali Racing Stables) P R Webber 7-10-3 .... J A McCarthy 114
8 310562 DARK ROMANCE 4 (D,G,S) (A Goldson) Miss Z Davison 10-10-2 .D O'Sullivan (7) 117
9 00-433 STONE'S THROW 68 (Mr & Mrs F Welch) D Nicholson 6-10-0 .... R Johnson 96
10 -C4P0F PRANCING BLADE 54 (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0 .... C Llewellyn 39

BETTING: 9-4 Pietro Bembo, 5-1 Interdream, 7-1 Krabloonik, Dark Romance, 8-1 Sadler's Secret, Stone's Throw, 10-1 Alhosaam, 14-1 others

1998: NATIVE PLAYER 6-11-10 N Williamson (11-4 fav) R Rowe 8 ran

Alhosaam was desperately disappointing when, on his favoured fast ground, he was last of seven when favourite for a valuable handicap hurdle at Newbury last time. At his best he would be a factor but that latest run undermines confidence. Pietro Bembo has more to do than when winning at Folkestone last time and tackles faster ground than he has yet encountered. Sadler's Secret was well beaten in a novices' hurdle at Chepstow last time, while Interdream's success last time came in a maiden hurdle at Wincanton. Preference is for KRABLOONIK, who deserves the chance to make amends for his mishap last time. He seemed to have the race in safe-keeping when unseating his rider at the last at Fontwell.

LUDLOW

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Sharbadarid
2.40 The Campdonian
3.15 Builder Boy
3.50 Jack
4.25 Mim-Lou-And
4.55 Celtic Abbey
5.25 Dream Of Nurmi

Carl Evans: 4.55 Grimley Gale.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS

2.10 CAYNHAM SELLING HURDLE (£1,711: 2m) (14 runners)

1 0014 SHARBADARID 23 (CD,S) J K Price 5-11-6 .... D J Burchell
2 0532 ALLEGIANCE 23 (V,G) P Wegmann 4-11-0 .... D Matthews
3 U0PP DETACHMENT 42 Miss Z Davison 6-11-0 .... C Maude
4 UP JIMJAREER 14 D Lloyd 6-11-0 .... Miss E J Jones
5 U034 PACKITIN PARKY 15 D McCain 6-11-0 .... A C Coyle (5)
6 000P CANDY COPPER 51 (T) Mrs P Ford 6-10-9 .... S Wynne
7 6- DOZEN ROSES 547 Miss Z Davison 5-10-9 .... J Goldstein (3)
8 025 LITTLE MISS LUCY 19 (B) M Heaton-Ellis 5-10-9 .... G Tormey
9 WILL TO WIN 63F T Keddy 5-10-9 .... R Bellamy
10 P00 FELONY 60F (T) R Brotherton 4-10-8 .... K Johnson
11 P JUST A STROLL 15 (T) A Carroll 4-10-8 .... J R Kavanagh
12 0P MICHELEE 14 Miss K Whitehouse 4-10-3 .... R Farrant
13 0652 SIENA 15 Miss K George 4-10-3 .... R Massey
14 0 TOY BOX 15 J McConnochie 4-10-3 .... V Slattery

11-4 Sharbadarid, 3-1 Little Miss Lucy, 9-2 Siena, 11-2 Packitin Parky, 7-1 Allegiance, 16-1 Toy Box, 20-1 Just A Stroll, Michelee, 25-1 others.

2.40 JOHN EDWARDS MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,241: 3m) (16)

1 5324 CHIEF GALE 207 (G) J O'Shea 7-11-7 .... S Durack
2 P0PU BLOWN WIND 43 (F) O Sherwood 8-11-0 .... R Thornton
3 0P50 BOLSHIE BARON 21 (T,D,F) M Weston 10-11-0 .... S Kelly (5)
4 0 CALLED TO THE BAR 34 P Rich 6-11-0 .... M Griffiths (5)
5 F0PP COOLEST BY PHAR 28 (T) Mrs P Ford 7-11-0 .... R Walley
6 6P0P DESLA'S DEVIL 109 (T) J P Smith 7-11-0 .... Gary Lyons
7 P-06 LORD MAX 132 Mrs S Richardson 7-11-0 .... O McPhail (5)
8 PPFP LUKER BOY 33 (B) J McConnochie 9-11-0 .... M Brennan
9 3/PP LYDEBROOK 48 M Mullineaux 10-11-0 .... S Wynne
10 -420 THE CAMPDONIAN 51 O O'Neill 8-11-0 .... V Slattery
11 P-8P TOOK A CHANCE 152 T Keddy 7-11-0 .... R Bellamy
12 1-PP TOUCHING DOWN 117 (D,G) C Morlock 7-11-0 .... G Tormey
13 23-5 TRISTRAM'S IMAGE 119 (G) N Henderson 8-11-0 .... J R Kavanagh
14 P00U TUDOR TOWN 14 P Purdy 11-11-0 .... M Sharratt
15 3-5F BAY FAIR 118 (G) M Bosley 7-10-9 .... S Curran
16 /PP2 LEINTHALL DOE 11 J R Hughes 13-10-9 .... R McGrath

5-4 Tristram's Image, 7-2 Chief Gale, 4-1 Blown Wind, 9-2 The Campdonian, 16-1 Bay Fair, 25-1 Bolshie Baron, Called To The Bar, 33-1 others.

3.15 D.J. PROFILES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,022: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

1 22F3 MERSHIGINER 23 S Sherwood 6-11-12 .... H Oliver (3)
2 -450 MAZAMET 76 O O'Neill 6-11-11 .... L Suthern (3)
3 0-21 GARRYNISK 259 (F,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-7 .... M Griffiths (3)
4 2-30 DRAKESTONE 76 R Brown 8-11-6 .... J Mogford (3)
5 5414 TWO LORDS 14 (CD,S) M Tate 7-11-5 .... J Tizzard
6 P600 ONEFORWILLIE 15 (G) P Bowen 6-11-4 .... L Cummins
7 3342 BUILDER BOY 15 (G) S Brookshaw 9-11-2 .... S Durack
8 0080 FAIRY KNIGHT 14 K Bailey 7-10-12 .... Edgar Byrne (6)
9 0361 PALISANDER 11 (T,S) R Ford 5-10-9 .... R McGrath
10 0442 THE NEGOTIATOR 54 (T) M Heaton-Ellis 5-10-8 .... R Walley
11 0042 JALB 11F (BF) P Murphy 5-10-7 .... L Aspell
12 P0PP SIR GALEFORCE 126 (G) R Curtis 9-10-7 .... A Price (10)
13 -PPF SELECTIVE ROSE 15 J S Smith 8-10-7 .... R Widger
14 2655 SOUTHERNDOWN 11 W Jenks 6-10-6 .... O McPhail
15 313P WELSH PARK 109 (B,G) A James 6-10-5 .... J Goldstein
16 4215 STRETCHING 21 (S) A Juckes 6-10-2 .... Mark Smith (7)
17 RP04 FANION DE NOURRY 2 T Caldwell 6-10-1 .... A Bates
18 0P3P AMBER RING 33 Miss K George 6-10-0 .... R Massey

5-1 Garrynisk, 11-2 Palisander, 7-1 Two Lords, Fairy Knight, 8-1 Mershiginer, Jalb, 10-1 Builder Boy, Stretching, 12-1 others.

3.50 WEATHERBYS PRINTING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,143: 2m 4f) (8)

1 0563 PIMBERLEY PLACE 34 (B,CD,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-10 .... C Maude
2 534F COOLTEEN HERO 4 (BF,F,G,S) R Alner 9-10-9 .... R Widger (5)
3 U152 JEMARO 14 (CD,F,G,S) W Jenks 8-10-6 .... Gary Lyons
4 2242 GRATOMI 15 (D,F,G,S) P Ritchens 9-10-6 .... S Fox
5 3606 COLONEL BLAZER 15 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 7-10-0 .... D Gallagher
6 2532 JACK 14 J Tuck 7-10-0 .... R Bellamy
7 262P INCH EMPEROR 86 (CD,F) A Carroll 9-10-0 .... W Marston
8 5154 EKEUS 125 (T,F,G) J King 9-10-0 .... L Cummins (3)

9-4 Gratomi, 11-4 Jemaro, 6-1 Pimberley Place, 7-1 Coolteen Hero, Colonel Blazer, 10-1 Jack, 12-1 Inch Emperor, 20-1 Ekeus.

4.25 HENLEY HALL GOLD CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,762: 2m) (8)

1 P15F BALLADUR 27 (D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-12 .... J Tizzard
2 0118 ROLFE 4 (B,CD,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-11-6 .... R Thornton
3 P-40 MANILENO 14 (B,CD,F,G) Miss S Wilton 5-11-5 Mr N Fehily (7)
4 -200 COUNT TONY 27 (D,F,G,S) P Bowen 5-11-1 .... W Marston
5 2533 MIM-LOU-AND 27 (CD,F,G) Miss H Knight 7-10-5 .D Gallagher
6 412R TREMENDISTO 14 (D,G,S) 1 Wall 9-10-3 .... Gary Lyons
7 2P26 BUNGEE JUMPER 14 (B,CD,F) P Bradley 9-10-3 .... R Farrant
8 U650 AQUAVITA 33 (G) Miss K George 5-10-0 .... R Massey

9-4 Balladur, 7-2 Mim-Lou-And, 6-1 Rolfe, Bungee Jumper, 7-1 Tremendisto, 8-1 Count Tony, 10-1 Manileno, 25-1 Aquavita.

4.55 CHASE MEREDITH MEMORIAL TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (£1,516: 3m) (5)

1 -610 CELTIC ABBEY 20 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs C Hardinge 11-12-7 .... Mr D S Jones (3)
2 2-11 GRIMLEY GALE 14 (CD,F,G,S) M Jackson 10-12-2 .... Mr J M Pritchard (3)
3 3P-8 LAKESIDE LAD 51 (D,S) S Richard Griffiths 7-12-2 .... Mr M Rodda (7)
4 -PF3 MY NOMINEE 17P (B,CD,F,G,S) D E Nicholls 11-12-2 .... Mr R Burton (5)
5 1P-3 OLLARDALE 11P (B,D,G,S) W Littleworth 11-12-2 .... Mr A Dalton (7)

1-3 Grimley Gale, 3-1 Celtic Abbey, 20-1 My Nominee, 25-1 Ollardale, 33-1 Lakeside Lad.

5.25 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,640: 2m) (18)

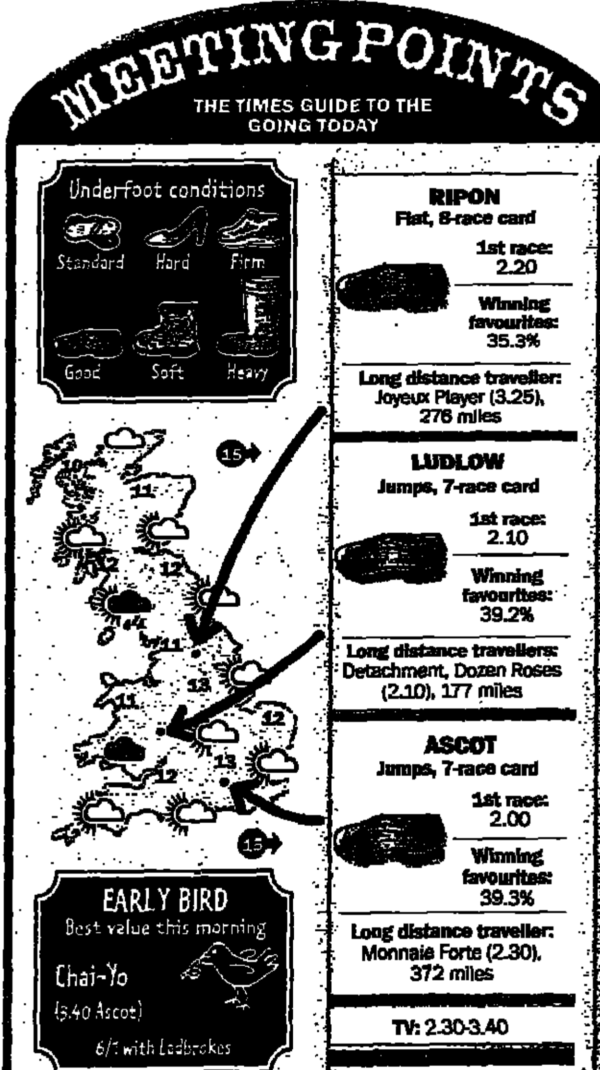
1 126 DON FAYRUZ 43 (BF,D,G) H Daly 7-11-6 .... R Farrant
2 DREAM OF NURMI 192F K Bailey 5-11-0 .... R Walley
3 -0R0 DURNFORD BAY 117 N Twiston-Davies 8-11-0 .... C Maude
4 00 GET ON GEORGE 78 S Brookshaw 5-11-0 .... S Durack
5 60-6 GLACIAL RIVER 102 D Caro 6-11-0 .... D Leahy
6 00 GRAND MUSICA 98 M Wilkinson 6-11-0 .... W Marston
7 0 GROOM'S GORDON 48 (T) Miss V Williams 5-11-0 S Kelly (5)
8 000 KOMASTA 43 Mrs D Butler 5-11-0 .... Mr H Hanley (7)
9 00 LUCKY LAMBRINI 38 Mrs L Williamson 5-11-0 . Mr D Sherlock
10 300 MISTRATO 64 P Wegmann 5-11-0 .... D Matthews
11 0-40 PADDINGTON JONES 137 D McCain 6-11-0 .... A C Coyle (5)
12 0 THE ETHIOPIAN 25 J King 6-11-0 .... L Cummins (3)
13 0-50 CHELWORTH VI 41 J Spearing 7-10-9 .... R Thornton
14 0P0 RED HOT HEBE 11 Mrs L Williamson 6-10-9 .... S Wynne
15 04-2 SAINT CECILIA 14 B Eckley 6-10-9 .... J Tizzard
16 060P TALKING IN RIDDLES 14 W Jenks 6-10-9 .... T Jenks
17 50 DOIGTS D'OR 67 P R Webber 4-10-8 .... D Gallagher
18 U06 RISKNOWT GETNOWT 14 R J Price 4-10-8 .... J Mogford (7)

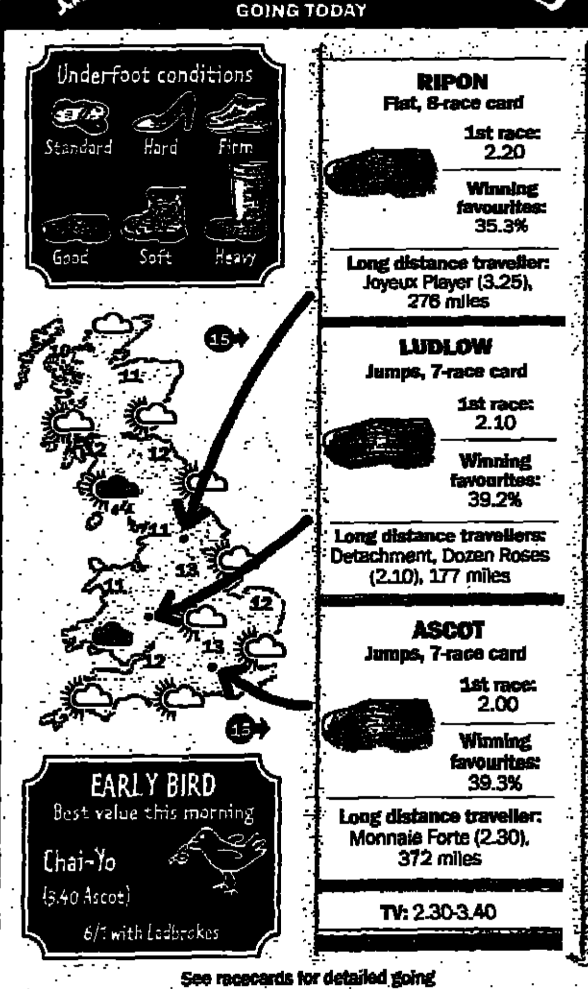
6-4 Dream Of Nurmi, 11-4 Don Fayruz, 8-1 Groom's Gordon, 10-1 Doigts D'or, 14-1 Glacial River, Chelworth VI, 16-1 Saint Cecilia, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. N Henderson, 11 winners from 29 runners, 37.9%; Miss V Williams, 8 from 23, 34.8%; C Morlock, 5 from 19, 26.3%; K Bailey, 19 from 79, 24.1%; R Curtis, 5 from 23, 21.7%; Mrs J Pitman, 6 from 29, 20.7%.

JOCKEYS. J Tizzard, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; C Maude, 9 from 45, 20.0%; D J Burchell, 5 from 34, 14.7%; R Farrant, 4 from 31, 12.9%; S Wynne, 12 from 109, 11.0%; D Gallagher, 4 from 40, 10.0%.







ASCOT COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
G L Moore	3	11	27.3	A P McCoy	28	106	26.4
K Bailey	12	54	22.2	R Johnson	12	48	25.0
F Murphy	4	19	21.1	N Williamson	18	83	21.7
Miss V Williams	4	19	21.1	A Thornton	7	36	19.4
D Nicholson	19	91	20.9	A Maguire	14	76	18.4
R Alner	6	31	19.4	R Dunwoody	20	120	16.7
S Dow	4	21	19.0	P Hide	8	69	11.6
M Pipe	15	86	17.4	J McCarthy	3	26	11.5
J Old	5	34	14.7	M A Fitzgerald	16	142	11.3
N Twiston-Davies	12	82	14.6	C Llewellyn	9	87	10.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ludlow: 2.10 Little Miss Lucy. 2.40 Luker Boy. 4.55 Ollardale. Ripon: 2.50 King's Hussar. 4.35 Golden Ace. 5.45 Dayraven.

Moiava's return delayed

MOIAVA, the favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, is to miss her intended prep race, the Prix Imprudence at Maisons-Laffitte on Friday, because of a setback.

Trainer, Criquette Head, reports it to be nothing serious and said the Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte winner could now head straight for Newmarket.

Moiava's name was absent from the list of yesterday's seven Imprudence acceptors. The septet includes two 1,000 Guineas entries, Blue Cloud and Rangoon Ruby. The former signed off her 1998 campaign by finishing third in the group one Prix Marcel Boussac.

Meanwhile, Newmarket yesterday reported the going for next week's three-day Craven Meeting as "perfect".

With a new grandstand under construction on the Rowley Mile course, fixtures have been transferred to the July course. Clerk of the course Nick Lees said: "We've had a desperate winter but the weather has come good now and the track is in wonderful condition with a good covering of grass. The going is absolutely perfect."



FOOTBALL

Offending players face stiffer penalties

By Russell Kempson

PLAYERS could be fined heavily for disciplinary offences next season under a new scheme proposed by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). If the system is given the go-ahead during the summer, persistent offenders might lose a week's wages should they fail to improve their behaviour.

The move follows a meeting of professional football's Negotiation and Consultative Committee, which is made up of representatives from the PFA, the Football League, the Football Association and the FA Premier League. It has been concerned by the mounting lack of discipline throughout the divisions and the need to hit players where it hurts — in their pay packets.

Under the new rules, a proportion of their wages will be docked after they have collected eight bookings. More serious penalties could be imposed for those who are sent off, with fines of 50 per cent of their weekly wages for a first red card, possibly rising to 75 per cent and 100 per cent for subsequent dismissals.

Players sent off for violent conduct and similar offences that warrant a three-match suspension would lose a week's wages. The maximum penalty would be two weeks' wages — the same level at which players can be punished at the moment.

Gordon Taylor, the PFA chief executive, said yesterday: "We have a responsibility to clean up the game. Players are reluctant to be fined, particularly when they are only doing their job, and my concern is for offences that are not intended fouls at all but simply misjudgment of tackles.

"Players know that suspension is part and parcel of the job and we sympathise with defenders. For them to go through a season without a caution is practically impossible."

Dennis Wise, the Chelsea captain, would not have fared well had the new system been in operation this season. He has been sent off four times and missed 14 matches because of suspension. The bank balance of Mark Hughes, the Wales and Southampton midfield player, would also have suffered. He has received 15 cautions and twice been fined £2,000, for reaching 11 and 14 bookings.

The FA Premier League and Football League have used different disciplinary measures in recent seasons. Two years ago, it was the traditional totting-up procedure, whereby players received one to four points per caution and were punished when they reached totals of 21, 33 and 45.

Last year, players were penalised when they had picked up five, eight and 11 bookings. If they managed to play five full matches without being cautioned, their last yellow card would be expunged. However, this was discarded last summer. This season, players face suspension when they reach five and eight cautions. Should they get to 11 and 14, they have to appear before an FA commission and can be suspended and/or fined.

"We have an agreement in principle, but no percentages have been agreed on," Chris Hull, a Football League spokesman, said yesterday. "The minutiae needs to ratified at another meeting in the next three months."

Taylor's main concern is making the fines fair for players in the FA Carling Premiership and those in the lower divisions, whose earnings differ vastly. "We are trying to be even-handed," he said. "Some club chairmen want to pay players nothing when they are suspended, but that is wrong."



High flyer: Fabio Bilica, of Brazil, blocks a shot during the Fifa Youth World Cup match against Spain in Calabar, Nigeria. Spain won 2-0

Venglos decides to remain at Celtic

By Our Sports Staff

JOZEF VENGLOS yesterday ended speculation about his future at Celtic by saying that he planned to stay on as coach of the Scottish champions next season.

However, Venglos, who coached Czechoslovakia to the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, is expected to take on a role as a technical advisor in the long term, once a successor has been found.

"Celtic has every confidence in Jozef Venglos and greatly appreciates his valuable contribution to the club," Allan MacDonald, the acting Celtic chief executive, said in a statement.

"This is reflected in his decision to remain as head coach for next season and to build upon his good efforts to date. He has also pledged himself to work with the new management team to help identify and transfer responsibilities to his successor as seamlessly as possible.

"In the longer term the club envisages Jozef playing a continuing role for the club as European technical advisor."

There had been speculation in the media that the Slovak trainer would leave at the end of the season, but Venglos said in the statement: "I am pleased to clarify my position. Our plans for next season are already moving forward."

Ronaldo, the Brazil forward, will captain Internazionale until the end of the Serie A season. The announcement was made yesterday by Luciano Castellini, the Inter coach, after Ronaldo captained the side for the first time at the weekend.

Ronaldo only wore the armband against Fiorentina because Giuseppe Bergomi was on the bench, goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca was suspended and Javier Zanetti waived his right to wear it. But the 2-0 victory, Inter's first for two months, secured with two penalties from Ronaldo, has changed the balance of power. Castellini, a stand-in coach for the last two months of the season, said: "Ronaldo was absolutely delighted to accept the captaincy and that shows how attached he is to Inter, to the team shirt he wears and to the values it represents.

"We have now agreed with the rest of the team that he will be captain for the matches ahead, even if Bergomi and Pagliuca are playing."

The victory on Saturday night was Castellini's first match in charge since replacing Mircea Lucescu last month. "I'm very pleased with how it went, but the merit isn't mine," he said.

"I can't have changed things in such a short period of time. It was the players, who realised they were in a tough situation."

Inter's return to winning ways coincided with Ronaldo's recovery after months of injury problems and Castellini is counting on the Brazilian for the last seven games of the season.

Uefa responds to protests

THE controversial system of awarding European places to teams that do better in the FA Cup than in the league may soon be a thing of the past. Clubs in the FA Carling Premiership have greeted the new system with dismay and Uefa, European football's governing body, said yesterday that it will discuss the issue at its executive committee meeting in Israel later this month.

"The Premier League asked us if we could change the rules and while we understand their concern, we can't do it for this season," a Uefa spokesman said. "Next season, however, it may well be that only the winner of the FA Cup can have a European place."

Whether they win or lose against Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup semi-final on Sunday, Newcastle United will gain automatic entry into the expanded Uefa Cup next season. With Arsenal and Manchester United all but assured of places in the European Cup Champions' League and Tottenham having already earned a Uefa Cup place by winning the Worthington Cup, Newcastle are the only team left to profit from the European place linked to success in the FA Cup.

Because of the overhaul of European club football next season, with the Cup Winners' Cup being absorbed into the Uefa Cup, this means that only fourth place in the Premiership guarantees a team finishing outside the top three a place in Europe.

Gullit puts Ferguson to the test before semi-final

By George Caulkin

AFTER more than three months of claim, counter-claim, innuendo and rumour, Duncan Ferguson will make his comeback for Newcastle United tonight as Ruud Gullit contemplates one of the biggest gambles of his managerial career.

Whitley Bay, of the Unibond League, will provide the opposition at the Newcastle training ground for a closed-doors match that should determine the Scottish striker's level of involvement in the FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday. Steve Howey, another recent absentee, will also take part.

Ferguson's inclusion is the more startling, however, given that Gullit's £8 million signing has played no competitive football since being substituted in Newcastle's 4-2 defeat at Liverpool last December. A groin injury has restricted Ferguson to just five first-team starts after his surprise transfer from Everton the previous month.

His recuperation has not been helped by a series of niggling, though unrelated, setbacks. Due to play in a reserve game against York City last week, he broke down in training, raising the suggestion that his season could be over. Gullit has now to decide whether the aerial prowess that Ferguson can offer is worth the obvious risk posed by his suspect fitness. A place on the bench at Old Trafford is the likely outcome.

The prospect of Gullit fielding neither of his favoured forwards — as he was forced to do for the 1-1 draw with Tottenham at St James' Park on Monday — has receded. Alan Shearer, the Newcastle and England captain, has recovered from an ankle injury, saying last night: "I'll be OK for Sunday."

Dietmar Hamann, the German midfield player, is also nearing full fitness, while Howey, the defensive linchpin of his side, trained with his team-mates yesterday for the first time since damaging his calf against Nottingham Forest last month. Only Stephen Glass is definitely unavailable for selection; he will undergo a knee operation tomorrow.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ FOUR FA Carling Premiership clubs could be forced to release their Norway international players later this month. Norway have a European championship qualifying match against Georgia on April 28. Nils Johan Semb, the manager, said yesterday that he will invoke a ruling by Uefa, the European governing body, which states that players cannot be included in club matches in a five-day period leading up to internationals. Manchester United, Chelsea, Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday are all affected as they have fixtures scheduled for Sunday, April 25.

■ Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, yesterday ordered referees at the world youth championship in Nigeria to take action to stop players who feign injury. Blatter made his comments at a press conference in Lagos after being asked what he thought of the behaviour of the Brazil players during their 2-0 group F defeat against Spain in Calabar. "Players should know that they play on grass and not on water," Blatter said. "Referees must give a yellow card for each incident of feigning injury, but at the moment they are not doing this. When players are taken off on a stretcher they appear to be dying, but when their feet touch African soil they suddenly become fit again." he added. Five people were detained in Nigeria yesterday on suspicion of interfering with a stadium generator on Sunday, causing a blackout in the second half of the match between Mexico and Ireland. The suspects were seen near the generator that failed, causing the floodlights to go out early in the second half of the match.

■ Mircea Lucescu, the Romanian who resigned as coach of Internazionale a little more than two weeks ago, has returned for a further spell as coach of Rapid Bucharest, the club announced yesterday. Lucescu, who left Inter immediately after the 4-0 defeat by Sampdoria on March 21, takes over from Dumitru Dumitriu, who recently resigned from Rapid, in second place in the Romanian first division.

■ Nine countries have expressed an interest in staging the first club world championship, Fifa announced yesterday. Mexico, Turkey, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Tahiti, China and the United States have all indicated a desire to stage the new competition, scheduled to take place from January 5 to 14 next year. The host country is expected to be selected before the end of May.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	0	146	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Cloud	9	23/3
Obergurgl	40	250	Spring	Slushy	Varied	Fine	7	5/4
St Anton	50	460	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Fair	10	4/4
Canada								
Lake Louise	150	165	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	5	4/4
France								
Alpe d'Huez	132	330	Spring	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	17	28/3
Argentiere	60	290	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fine	15	27/3
Avoriaz	210	230	Fair	Slushy	Spring	Fine	10	28/3
Flaine	100	545	Fair	Slushy	Spring	Fine	7	27/3
La Clusaz	30	250	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Fine	11	27/3
La Plagne	140	220	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	8	28/3
La Tania	100	235	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Fine	13	27/3
Les Arcs	95	305	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	12	28/3
Megève	70	220	Fair	Slushy	Packed	Sun	15	27/3
Méribel	45	220	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Sun	13	27/3
Tignes	122	260	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	10	27/3
Val Thorens	100	250	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	11	27/3
Val d'Isère	98	220	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	12	27/3
Italy								
Cervinia	80	180	Good	Slushy	Spring	Fine	11	27/3
Cortina	25	100	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	15	27/3
Livigno	46	192	Hard	Slushy	Varied	Sun	14	26/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	30	250	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fine	12	28/3
Davos	115	285	Good	Slushy	Spring	Fair	8	22/3
Klosters	40	280	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fair	11	22/3
Murren	70	240	Good	Some	Heavy	Cloud	11	27/3
Saas Fee	75	230	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fine	12	28/3
St Moritz	50	100	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	10	27/3
Verbier	45	380	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fine	10	28/3
Wengen	40	140	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Fine	13	27/3
Zermatt	45	240	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	12	27/3
United States								
Aspen	143	163	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-1	5/4
Deer Valley	205	213	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	2	2/4

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

هكذا من الاصل

CRICKET

Langer's century puts pressure on West Indies

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

VIV RICHARDS — or Sir Vivian, as we must call him these days — has agreed to bring his considerable presence to bear on West Indies in the forthcoming seven one-day internationals against Australia and the World Cup in England in May and June.

His involvement, by the invitation of Pat Rousseau, the president of the West Indies Cricket Board, reflects the continuing concern about their batting, which could not have been facing a more severe examination yesterday as Australia pushed for the victory in the final Test that would level the series and retain their hold on the Frank Worrell Trophy.

It follows Richards's contribution to West Indies' famous victory in Barbados, when Brian Lara revealed that his frequent visits to the dressing-room had helped to motivate him and his team. They reached a victory target of 308 with one wicket to spare.

They have even more to do this time. Australia, who were already 290 runs ahead when they began the fourth day on 209 for two, eventually challenged them to score 388 to win — or bat through 4½ sessions to draw and thereby regain the trophy — on the back of a century from Justin Langer, achieved in the face of a magnificent spell of bowling with the old ball by the indomitable Curtly Ambrose.

There have been times in this series when Ambrose has appeared to be coming to the end of the road after more than a decade as West Indies' attacking spearhead, but, after taking only 11 wickets in the first three Tests, he has come back into his own on his home ground. He took five for 94 in Australia's first innings and yesterday claimed the important wickets of the Waugh twins in an exemplary spell of two wickets for nine runs in ten overs, six of them maidens.

Ambrose, 35, has been written off before, but he has always insisted that only he will know when to quit and he looked as though he could go on for some time yet as he confounded Mark Waugh, who had scored 65 in a third-wicket partnership of 147 with Langer, and then Steve in successive overs.

Not even Ambrose could deny Langer his century, however. He shrugged off the embarrassment of being comprehensively beaten twice by Ambrose when he was in the 90s to complete his third Test century in exactly 5½ hours, off 252 balls. He hit a six and seven fours.

Langer is yet another of those overseas players who readily admit that they have benefited from playing county cricket. Indeed, the 1,448 runs that he scored for Middlesex last season, at an average of 62.95, had much to do with his recall to the Australia team for the tour of Pakistan last year.

He scored his first Test hundred in Peshawar, when Mark Taylor was making his monumental 334 not out, went on to make an unbeaten 179 against England in Adelaide and now produced his best innings of the series when his captain needed it most.

Steve Waugh was still haunted by what happened in Barbados and Australia's progress was painfully slow, particularly after Hooper had pitched one of his off breaks outside Langer's leg stump and turned it so much that it hit the off.

That was an encouraging sign for Australia, but still they fretted over whether they had enough, scoring only 65 runs in 33 overs before lunch and then losing their last five wickets for 32. Three of them fell to Courtney Walsh, giving him 26 in the series and taking him to within 11 wickets of Kapil Dev's Test record of 434.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 303 (S R Waugh 72 not out, J L Langer 51; C E L Ambrose 5 for 94)

Second innings

G S Blewett lbw b Ambrose	7
M J Slater b Walsh	44
J L Langer b Hooper	127
M E Waugh c Jacobs b Ambrose	65
*S R Waugh c Jacobs b Ambrose	4
R T Ponting not out	21
†I A Healy c Adams b Hooper	16
C R Miller c Lara b Walsh	1
A C Dale c Hooper b Walsh	0
S C G MacGill c Perry b Hooper	2
G D McGrath b Walsh	2
Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 3, nb 11)	17
Total	306

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-76, 3-223, 4-241, 5-265, 6-287, 7-288, 8-288, 9-296

BOWLING: Ambrose 27-10-55-3; Walsh 32.4-6-78-4; Hooper 30.4-7-69-3; Adams 8.2-2-13-0; Collymore 16-1-60-0; Perry 7-0-28-0

WEST INDIES: First Innings 222 (B C Lara 100)

Umpires: D L Orchard (South Africa) and S A Bucknor

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.cricket.org

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 2, from 12pm.



Langer acknowledges the applause of the Antigua crowd after reaching his century yesterday

Stewart seeks end to England losing sequence

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

EVEN with a new electronic scoreboard and an elegantly-shaped roof capping one of the stands, it requires a vivid imagination to mistake the CBFS Stadium in Sharjah for Lord's. Yet it is here, in temperatures approaching 37C and on pitches without a tinge of green, that the countdown to the World Cup begins for England today.

Alec Stewart, the captain, was merely being honest when he said there was little that the selectors can learn from the Coca-Cola Cup over the next fortnight that might alter the thinking for the tournament proper, which begins against Sri Lanka in London NW8 on May 14.

After losing six of the past seven one-day internationals at the end of the Australia tour, however, the importance of linking a few victories together should not be underestimated. If they can repeat the performances of 17 months ago, when a different England side, led by Adam Hollioake, beat India, Pakistan and West Indies, then the World Cup can be undertaken with more optimism.

The squad for the last visit here, in 1997, comprised of players equipped specifically for the conditions, but the stalwart county all-rounders have been replaced since by specialists — the likes of Angus Fraser and Ian Austin who should come into their own in seaming conditions in England. The group who won in Sharjah struggled to match that success thereafter.

Stewart emphasised that the priority is to win a tournament carrying prize-money of £32,000, to the point of picking the best side for each of the four group matches against Pakistan and India rather than experimenting with new ideas. "If there is a way of looking to tactics we can use back home we will do it, but all the conditions are different," Stewart said.

With that in mind it must be assumed that the XI chosen to face Pakistan over 50 overs under lights today is the side that is thought most likely to beat Sri Lanka next month. The only complication is a slight back injury to Fraser, although considering the flight from the training camp in Lahore was delayed by 12 hours, including a two-hour wait on the runway, it is fortunate that no more of the 15-man squad have ailments.

Eight of the team appears to be fixed: Knight and Stewart to open followed Hick, Thorpe, whose recovery from a back problem is crucial, and Fairbrother. Gough and Mullally will take the new ball and Croft is the only specialist spin bowler. Given that Austin or Fraser will be the third seamer, and that Ealham is the most likely No 7, it leaves the pivotal position at six to be filled. While Hollioake's star has fallen over the winter, Andrew Flintoff has responded emphatically to the challenge.

Pakistan provide stiff opposition, having completed a sequence of victories against India over the winter by winning the Pepsi Cup in Bangalore three days ago. A large expatriate community will occupy most of the 12,000 capacity and the absence of Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed, rested ahead of the World Cup, is unlikely to diminish their prospects.

FIXTURES: April 7: England v Pakistan. April 8: India v Pakistan. April 9: India v England. April 11: England v India. April 12: England v Pakistan. April 13: India v Pakistan. April 16: Final

New cameras brings World Cup into line

AN INNOVATIVE £500,000 camera system, designed to assist the third umpire, is to be used at the World Cup, which starts next month.

The England and Wales Cricket Board hopes that the International Cricket Council will donate about £200,000 for the Panasonic Pana-Eye scheme, with the electronics company contributing the rest of the money.

The system has been used in South Africa and involves the placing of four fixed cameras level with the stumps at either end of the wicket, making line decisions easier to assess.

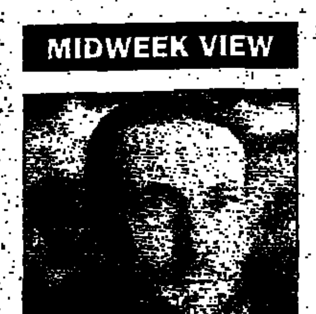
Salim Malik, the former captain involved in allegations of match-fixing, was yesterday named in Pakistan's 15-man squad for the World Cup. Salim was not included in the provisional squad, but after a dismal performance by the middle-order batsmen during the tri-nation series in India, he was recalled by the selectors.

"I always had the feeling that I would play the World Cup," Salim said yesterday, before flying to the United Arab Emirates for the three-nation Sharjah Cup, involving England and India. The selectors also recalled Waqar Younis, the fast bowler, and Mushtaq Ahmed, the leg spinner.

PAKISTAN SQUAD: Wasim Akram (captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Wajahatullah Wasti, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Azhar Mahmood, Abdur Razzak.

Joke falls foul of moral indignation

MIDWEEK VIEW



Simon Barnes
Sports Feature Writer of the Year

I am aware that what I write here will be deeply shocking. I am about to surrender all my credibility as a person of weight, of moral seriousness, as a person equipped to write with judgment on the follies of humankind. But I cannot deny it. I thought it was funny. I still do.

I laughed at the picture, laughed at the grossness, the conceptual wit, the appositeness, the ludicrous exactness of the mime. The idea of turning a pitch marking into a monstrous line of cocaine had something almost Rabelaisian about it.

I could see that it was going to make a lot of trouble, too. I felt, if anything, rather sad about that. Robbie Fowler could probably hear a still, small, John Le Mesurier voice deep inside him even as he dropped to his knees: "You think that's quite wise, sir?" But there are some people who cannot resist a jest. When a jest occurs, there is a pressing, almost incontinent need to give it voice.

Oscar Wilde's joke at his trial, explaining why he didn't kiss a male acquaintance — "He wasn't even pretty" — became something of his famous last words. I fear that the world may have its revenge on Fowler. This could be his famous last sniff. But be serious, I hear you say. Be responsible. Be mature. What kind of example is this to set for children?

Quite a good one, I am tempted to say. To repay a gibe with a jest is a good thing, certainly better than repaying a gibe with a blow. If Graeme Le Saux had been able to do such a thing, Fowler would not be in the mess he is now.

Fowler's caperings before Le Saux — another of his mimes; Fowler really is the Marcel Marceau of football — silently and deafeningly accusing Le Saux of homosexuality, were unamusing. They were intended to offend, they were aggressive, they were thoroughly unpleasant. But Le Saux — I am sure a very decent fellow — suffers the tragedy of being an unteasable footballer. He whacks people who tease him. Being teased is part of being a footballer.

Or a stable lad, for that matter. I met an unteasable stable lad the other day. Very good with horses, couldn't stand being teased. He had his initials — T. W. — appliquéd on to the silk of his helmet. His colleagues call him Tinky Winky.

Fowler couldn't resist a jest against Le Saux, on the Tinky Winky principle, and will deserve a reasonably hefty slap on the wrist as a result. But, all the same, Fowler can show Le Saux how even a malicious joke can be turned on the joker.

Fowler responded to being taunted — opposing supporters call him "smackhead" — with his inspired mime. But the sound of condemnation that followed has been extraordinary. I don't recall condemnation of Paul Merson's drinking-man goal celebration, and alcohol claims more lives and causes more misery every year than cocaine. Ask Merson if you don't believe me, or Tony Adams.

But illegal drugs stir the juices of the serious-minded. Fowler was encouraging the use of a lethal drug, how can he do so without hearing the screams of a million addicts, etc, etc. To make a light remark about any drug other than alcohol, the West's drug of choice, is to turn upon yourself the full battery of moral indignation. It's open season.

What about his responsibility to children? For a start, Fowler has no responsibility for children — that's something to do with parents, actually — and for seconds, any child that decides to snort cocaine because a footballer made a dodgy joke is in deep enough trouble without worrying about people such as Robbie Fowler.

I'll tell you what Fowler's trouble is. It is making jokes. It is falling foul of the global conspiracy of the humourless. Jokes humanise, jokes civilise, jokes deflect wrath. Jokes give perspective, insight, clarity. Jokes give complexity. Jokes add life-giving layers of possibility. Jokes do not compromise the seriousness: jokes add to a serious intention and make deeper the meaning. Ask Shakespeare if you don't believe me, or Donne, or Joyce.

But so much of daily life is organised by the conspiracies of the jokeless: the dehumanisers, those who dread perspective, balance, thought. Lord deliver us from the humourless — I fear Fowler has fallen into their clutches. Moral: don't make jokes. Ever. The humourless always win.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup

Semi-finals, first leg

Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich (7.45).
Manchester Utd v Juventus (7.45)

Nationwide Conference

Forest Green v Woking (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham v Leigh RMI, Bishop Auckland v Stalybridge, Guiseley v Frickley. First division: Great Harwood v Farsley Celtic, Hucknall v Alfreton, Matlock v Whitley Bay
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Paget v Weston-super-Mare, Solihull Borough v Stourbridge, Sutton Coldfield v Shepshed
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Romford v Wealdstone. Second division: Banstead v Hungerford. Third division: Southall v Ford Utd. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Boreham Wood v Maidenhead. Vandanel Trophy: Semi-final: Windsor and Eton v Marlow. Puma Cup: Semi-final: Dulwich Hamlet v Hendon
ENDSLEIGH TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Farnborough v Cheltenham (7.45).
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Sixth round: Wimbledon v Coventry
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Crystal Palace (2.0); Barnet v Cambridge (2.0); Bournemouth v Portsmouth (2.0). Brentford v Millwall (2.0). Charlton v Gillingham (at Welling Utd, 2.0). Colchester v Norwich (2.0). Luton v Oxford (2.0). Southampton v Reading. West Ham v Ipswich (7.45). Wimbledon v Swindon. Wycombe v Northampton (2.0)
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Preston (7.0). Leeds v Aston Villa (7.0). First division: Coventry v Tranmere (7.0); Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough (7.0). Second division: Blackpool v Sheffield Utd (7.0). Lincoln v York (6.0). Scarborough v Wrexham (2.0). Shrewsbury v Notts County (2.0). Third division: Bury v Carlisle (2.0). Chesterfield v Hull (2.0). Rochdale v Darlington (2.0). Walsall v Halifax (2.0). Wigan v Chester (2.0)
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Fairford v Highworth; Kintbury v Didcot. Swindon Supermarine v Hallen
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Shildon; Newcastle Blue Star v Morpeth.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Mangotsfield Utd. Yeovil TR v Melksham
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Toddington. Brook House v Arlesey. Islington St Mary's v Buckingham
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William v Forres Mechanics. Rothes v Buckie Thistle.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Moneyfields v Lymington and New Milton
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: S and L Corby v Ford Sports
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Croydon v Millwall

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Huddersfield v Castleford (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

Anglo-Welsh club match

Cardiff v Sale (7.15)

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 8 San Francisco 11. Florida 6 New York Mets 2. Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 7. Los Angeles 8 Arizona 6 (11 inns). Pittsburgh 2 Montreal 9. St Louis 8 Milwaukee 10.
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 3 Boston 5. Texas 5 Detroit 11, Baltimore 10 Tampa Bay 7. Seattle 2 Chicago White Sox 8. Oakland 5 New York Yankees 3 (8inns)

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 71 Atlanta 77. Orlando 106 Boston 99. Detroit 86 Indiana 88. Minnesota 100 Dallas 93. San Antonio 93 Golden State 86. Los Angeles Lakers 117 Denver 104

CRICKET

ONE-DAY MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 259-4 (50 overs, S P James 100, A W Evans 62). Oxford University 138-8 (43 overs). Match abandoned, bad light

CURLING

ST JOHN, New Brunswick: World championships: Men: Fourth round: Scotland 10 Switzerland 7. Fifth round: Scotland 7 Germany 6. Women: Fifth round: Norway 11 Scotland 4

CYCLING

TOUR OF BASQUE COUNTRY: Second stage (Tolosa to Zalla, 204km): 1, G Figueras (It) 5hr 15min 21sec. 2, W Belli (It). 3, L Jalabert (Fr). 4, M Pantani (It). 5, P Savoldelli (It). 6, D Rebellin (It) all at same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Jalabert 8:07 08; 2, Rebellin at same time. 3, B Fernandez (Sp) 21sec. 4, G Figueras (It) 32. 5, U Bolts (Ger). 6, N Aebersold (Switz) both same time

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Clydebank v Greenock Morton
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville 0 Portadown 3. Crusaders 0 Glentoran 3. Glenavon 2 Linfield 2.

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle United 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Southend 0 Scunthorpe 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Chalfont St Peter 3 Windsor and Eton 2. Harlow 1 Barking 0. Hertford 1 Hemel Hempstead 4; Horsham 2 Banstead 3; Hungerford 2 Abingdon Town 0. Leighton 1 Bedford Town 4. Northwood 2 Edgware 1. Thame 0 Marlow 2. Witham 3 Wivenhoe 1. Wokingham 0 Bracknell 0. Third division: Epsom and Ewell 0 Tilbury 5

HOCKEY

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Azlan Cup: Pakistan 5 Malaysia 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Montreal 0. Buffalo 3 Pittsburgh 1. Tampa Bay 4 Ottawa 4. Detroit 3 Anaheim 2. Florida 0 Washington 3. Philadelphia 1 New York Rangers 5. Toronto 2 St Louis 2. Chicago 2 Vancouver 1. Colorado 4 Los Angeles 1

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Featherstone Rovers 50 Swinton 20. Oldham 20 Leigh 26

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND A SQUAD (to play Wales A at Wrexham on Friday): Backs: C Catling (Gloucester), J Williams (Harlequins), L Lloyd (Leicester), F Waters (Wasps), P Mensah (Harlequins), M Shaw (Newcastle), A King (Wasps), S Benton (Gloucester), N Walshe (Harlequins). Forwards: D Crompton (Richmond), T Woodman (Gloucester), W Green (Wasps), G Chuter (Saracens), M Regan (Bath), M Cornwell (Gloucester), S Shaw (Wasps), R Fidler (Gloucester), S Ojomoh (Gloucester), R Pool-Jones (Stade Français), P Volley (Wasps), A Diprose (Saracens)
ENGLAND UNDER-21 TEAM (to play Wales Under-21 at Neath on Friday): L Best (Richmond), I Balshaw (Bath), J Pritchard (Bristol), M Tindall (Bath), M Walker (Rotherham), J Brown (London Irish), J Bramhall (Northampton), M Ward (Newcastle), S Walter (Northampton), J Dawson (Saracens), A Sheridan (Richmond), S Borthwick (Bath), A Sanderson (Saracens), A Balding (Leicester), L Moody (Leicester). Replacements: R Thirlby, B Johnston, M Powell, D Flatman (all Saracens), J Hayter (Orrell), J Rule (Newcastle), A Hazell (Gloucester)

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 4a (Hong Kong to Singapore, with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 700; 2, Antiope (K Harris) 707; 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 712; 4, Mermerus (B Sollars) 718; equal 5, Thermopylae (M Tod) and Taeping (N Fleming) 725; 7, Serica (R Dean) 727
GRAFHAM WATER, Cambridgeshire: Volvo RYA national championships (after second day): 420 men (after four races): 1, N Baker and J Clifton 14pts; 2, R Watson and M Ellis 20; 3, M Gill and M Harrison 32; 4, T Paul and S Rouse 37; 5, S Gray and J Allen 38; 6, A King and N Davies 41. 420 women (after four races): 1, H Brown and J Scott 39; 2, N Barnes and J Marshall 57; 3, S Blair and T Smith 77; 4, V Rawlinson and E Rawlinson 79; 5, G F Sykes and R Gaymon 82; 6, C Baccadone and H Mayhew 89. Laser men (after four races): 1, A Walsh 15; 2, B Rhodes 16; 3, C Brittle 17; equal 4, D Hivey, A Commander and M Howard 19. Laser radial men (after three races): 1, P Griffiths 4; 2, T Hulse 12; equal 3, G Pape and L Chapman 19; 5, G Blake 20; 6, J Smith 22. Laser radial women (after three races): 1, B Holt 59; 2, K Archer 85; 3, J Knoae 136; 4, N Lloyd 148; 5, B Lygoe 157

SHOOTING

BISLEY CLUBS EASTER MEETING: Queen's II: 1, R Hawley 150.16pts; 2, H Hunter 149.21; 3, A Ogilvie 149.17. 900 yards: 1, Dr A Pilgrim 75.10; 2, S Cane 74.10 (5); 3, H Hunter 74.10 (5). 1,000 yards: 1, J Barr, 74.8; 2, W Rowland 74.6; 3, C Weeden 73.10. Short-range aggregate: 1, Ogilvie 329.40; 2, J Cane 327.37; 3, K Genders 327.36. Long-range aggregate: 1, Pilgrim 223.22; 2, P Wakefield 220.13; 3, G Morris 219.24. Championship grand aggregate: 1, Ogilvie 547.63; 2, S Smallwood 544.68; 3, T Green 544.6

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Open: First round: S Davis (Eng) bt D Clarke (Eng) 5-2; F O'Brien (R Ire) bt A Bolsover (Eng) 5-4; M Judge (Ire) bt D Dale (Wales) 5-4; J Michie (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-3; P Davies (Wales) bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-1; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Jones (Eng) 5-2; M Campbell (Scot) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-2; P Ebdon (Eng) bt Q Hann (Aus) 5-3; K Doherty (Ire) bt W Brown (Eng) 5-1; J White (Eng) bt J Saral (N Ire) 5-4; P Hunter (Eng) bt I Sargeant (Wales) 5-3; A Hamilton (Eng) bt M Fu (HK) 5-4; S Hendry (Scot) bt J Birch (Eng) 5-0; G Dott (Scot) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-4; M Gray (Eng) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-3

SPEEDWAY

CRAVEN SHIELD: Wolverhampton 47 Hull 43. Coventry 49 King's Lynn 41

PREMIER NATIONAL TROPHY: Reading 49 Exeter 41.

SQUASH

VIENNA: European junior team championship: Quarter-finals: England bt France 3-0 (England names first: N Mathew (Yorks) bt G Gautier 8-10, 9-5, 9-0, 9-2; B Garner (Surrey) bt R Tenant 9-2, 9-0, 9-0; D Lloyd-Walter (Middx) bt S Murat 9-1, 9-3, 9-2); Germany bt Scotland 3-0; Spain bt Wales 3-0; The Netherlands bt Finland 2-1. Semi-finals: England bt Germany 3-0 (England names first: A Grant (Kent) bt H Seestaller 9-2, 9-1, 9-4; Garner bt M Scherrer 9-7, 9-2; V Lankester (Suffolk) bt S Leilets 9-2, 9-7, 9-5); Spain bt The Netherlands 3-0. Final: England bt Spain 3-0 (England names first: Matthew bt A Manso 9-2, 4-9, 7-9, 9-6, 9-0; Grant bt B Golan 9-2, 9-5; Lankester bt E Sado 10-8, 9-0, 9-6).

TENNIS

LISBON: Estoril tournament: Men: First round: K Alami (Mor) bt A Lopez-Moron (Sp) 6-4, 6-0; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt C Costa (Sp) 1-6, 6-2, 7-6; A Portas (Sp) bt P Leao (Por) 6-1, 6-1; F Mantilla (Sp) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-3, 6-2; J Novak (Cz) bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-6, 6-3; A Costa (Sp) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-1, 6-3; J Golmard (Fr) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7-6, 7-6. Women: First round: B Schwartz (Austria) bt S Noorlander (Neth) 6-2, 6-1; M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) bt A Nogueira (Por) 6-1, 6-1; R Kuti Kis (Hun) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 7-5, 6-4; E Wagner (Ger) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Gersi (Cz) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2
AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: WTA Bausch and Lomb championship: First round: M Serna (Sp) bt M J Gaidano (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; T Pisnik (Slovenia) bt B Rippner (US) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; L Osterloh (US) bt M A Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; K Brandi (US) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-1, 6-2; K Hrdlickova (Cz) bt B Rittner (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; E Tatarkova (Ukr) bt M Drake (Can) 6-4, 7-5; V R Pascual (Sp) bt S Cacic (US) 6-2, 6-1; N Dechy (Fr) bt M Tu (US) 6-2, 6-3; J Capriati (US) bt S Plischke (Austria) 7-5, 6-3; T Snyder (US) bt L Schaerer (Par) 6-2, 6-4; C Cristea (Rom) bt A Stevenson (US) 6-3, 6-0; C Papadaki (Gr) bt M A Vento (Ven) 6-2, 7-6; R Dragomir (Rom) bt N Petrova (Russ) 6-2, 6-2; S Jeyaseelan (Can) bt G L Garcia (Sp) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; C Rubin (US) bt N Pratt (Aus) 6-2, 6-1; I Majoli (Cro) bt S Nacuk (Yug) 7-5, 6-3; A Fusai (Fr) bt C Morariu (US) 6-3, 6-4; J Steck (SA) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 7-5, 3-6, 6-1.
MADRAS: Indian Open: First round: A Ilie (Aus) bt D van Scheppingen (Neth) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt O Stanoytchev (Bul) 6-4, 6-4; J van Lottum (Neth) bt J Knippschild (Neth) 6-3, 6-4; V Santopadre (It) bt G Grant (US) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Stark (US) bt N Escudé (Fr) 6-2, 5-7, 6-2

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

VERTICLE
(c) A vertebra. From the Latin diminutive of *vertex*. It means a joint.

YOUF
(c) To bark, especially in a suppressed manner. Echoic. *Cf. yaff*.

YUG
(c) In Hindu cosmology, any of the four ages in the duration of the world, the four ages comprising 4,320,000 years and constitutinga a great yuga (*Mahayuga*). The Sanskrit word means an age of the world.

VARICELLA
(b) *Chicken-pox*. An irregular diminutive of *variola*. "Varicella has been largely confounded with small-pox, of which it has been regarded as a modified variety."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rxh7+! Bxh7 2 Rb7 is catastrophic for Black as even 2 ... Rf7 3 Rxf7 Qg8 doesn't help on account of 4 Rf8.

John Hopkins on the family anguish of golf's superstar

Shadow looms over Woods

Earl Woods has been a fixture at important golf events in the United States and at the major championships for several years. Indeed, one of the most moving sights of the 1997 Masters, when Tiger, his son, won the first major championship in which he competed as a professional, was the sight of them embracing emotionally by the side of the 18th green after Tiger had won by 12 strokes and set a new 72-hole total.

However, the Masters this week will be the last major championship that Earl will be able to attend for some time. Next Monday, he will begin radiation treatment for prostate cancer. As a result, he will miss the Open Championship at Carnoustie in July and, probably, the US Open at Pinehurst in June.

Though David Duval has eclipsed his compatriot these past six months and recently replaced him at the top of the world rankings, Tiger Woods



remains the biggest name in golf, the biggest earner, a young man with a huge following around the world. This has come about as a result of a strategy that Earl and Tida Woods developed for their only son before the prodigy was born. They decided that Tiger would always come first in their relationship and set about planning and executing their predetermined aims.

The lengths to which they went were extraordinary. For example, Earl Woods has revealed how he would stand over Tiger's cot and talk gently to his new-born son while stroking his cheek. Earl Woods, a lover of jazz, made sure that music from the local station was playing on the radio when Tiger was brought home from the hospital. "Jazz is so creative, so melodic," Woods said. "I wanted Tiger to hear it straightaway."

Yet as vital a part of successful parenting as bringing up the child is saying goodbye to that child and Woods has been doing that some time now.

"I am satisfied and pleased with what I have done for Tiger," Earl Woods said, "but I am moving into the background more and more. I attend fewer tournaments now and Tiger and I only talk on the telephone once every two or three weeks. I have told him 'live your life, it is yours not mine'. He is growing up right in front of our faces. In 2½ years, he has gone from being a young adolescent to a young man. He is in charge of his life."

Woods admitted that Duval was probably playing better golf than his son at the moment, but said that did not make Duval the best golfer in the world. "Is the best golfer in the world the one with the most talent or the one with the best results while at his peak? I say David Duval is better than anyone else at the moment, but his overall game needs to improve. It has been up and down. Tiger is in the top ten all the time, he makes cuts, he is in contention. It is only a matter of time before he regains his supremacy.

"Clearly, Tiger is emerging as a dominant golfer of his era, one of the young kids who reflect the Nineties approach to playing golf, young kids who attack, who are very aggressive, long and mature. They have more talent than the guys in the past. They eat properly, take care of their body, do not punish it. This is one of the most talented groups ever and it includes Ernie Els, David Duval, Lee Westwood, Justin Leonard and, of course, Tiger. Els, for example, is a multitalented individual who has an inherent ability to shed pressure. Michael Jordan had it, Tiger has it. No other golfer has it.

"They are the forerunners of the next generation. Lurking in the woodwork and the weeds are some of the most fantastic golfers I have seen. They are going to be rivalling these guys in five years. They will be preponderantly non-white, will come from all over the world. Of those from the US, some will come from the inner cities. This is attributable to Tiger. Tiger made golf cool. Golf is an avenue to stardom for them. Golf is a game they can play for ever.

"Tiger has faced more expectations and worries than any athlete in the history of an individual sport. Even Michael Jordan sat on the bench for the Chicago Bulls for two years and did nothing. At the age Jordan was sitting on the bench, Tiger was being presented with the problems of being the No 1 golfer in the world in a sport in which he is the only non-white."

Problems that he has negotiated with the help and preparation of his father. For his part, Woods can draw satisfaction from knowing that he has done a good job. "Tiger continues to be a better person than he is golfer," he said, "and for that I am grateful that I raised a good person."

DAVE MARTIN



Woods embraces his son after Tiger had completed his record-breaking victory at the Masters two years ago

'I am satisfied and pleased with what I have done for Tiger'



WEBSITE:
www.masters.org — official site
TELEVISION:
Preview, 7pm (BBC2)

Duval inspires young tigers

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

FOR Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood, two young men with the world at their feet, the 63rd Masters is the chance for them to take a big step forward. Woods is determined to demonstrate that the desire to win a second green jacket and second major championship is enough to draw from him a top-drawer performance.

The sub-text for Woods is that such a performance will enable him to regain his ranking as the world No 1 from David Duval. Woods denies being put out by Duval's rise, but he cannot be happy about being asked at every turn whether he acknowledges Duval to be the better player. What Woods said yesterday, when he was asked for the umpteenth time, was: "He is certainly playing better."

Woods said he has played well for some months without having the exceptional sparkle that has marked Duval's golf. He believes his game is much steadier than it used to be. "My bad rounds now are 69s and 70s: they used to be 78s and 79s." He particularly praised his putting, which is so important at Augusta. In the West Coast tournaments before Augusta, where Woods finished first, second and third in three of the five events, he did not three-putt once.

Westwood expects to show on his third appearance at Augusta not only that he is comfortable on the course, but that he has judged his preparations to perfection. Westwood has made a slow start to the year after his marriage in January. He has played only 14 competitive rounds, and although he finished fifth at the Players Championship, one place better than in 1998, he then went off for a week's holiday whereas last year he moved on to New Orleans and won his first tournament in the United States.

There is a fear, in other words, that Westwood may be undertrained here. It is not a charge with which he agrees. "The last thing you want to do is to come into a major with a lot of hype surrounding you, so having the week off is the best thing to do," Westwood said. "I am playing as well as I did at this time last year."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Apocalypse soon

The Last Train
ITV, 9.45pm

April 1999: A meteorite the size of Birmingham strikes Zambia, devastating the Earth. At the moment of impact, a train enters a tunnel just outside Sheffield and one carriage is left uncrushed by the ensuing collapse. The surviving passengers are, however, put into suspended animation. One of them knows how and why but when they awake and find themselves the only humans alive in a tropical and toxic Yorkshire, they reject her explanation as incredible. Menaced by starving wild dogs (some scenes are truly horrific), they gradually come together and set off in search of a bunker where they believe the authorities have taken refuge. But how many days, months or years were they asleep . . .?

ER
Channel 4, 9pm

'Twas the night before Christmas (well, it is an American show) and the spirit of Symbolism was stalking the hospital. From the cooler perspective of Easter week, tonight's episode may seem sentimental and overblown, but you're unlikely to be bored. Carter battles to resuscitate an 18-year-old boy unconscious and not breathing for 20 minutes, only to find that the mother of the now brain-dead youth refuses to allow his organs to be donated, even when a 16-year-old girl dying of liver failure is brought in. British Dr Corday falls for a classical musician and he for her, but he is on the brink of surgery for prostate cancer, so what to do? The increasingly obnoxious Romano finally goes too far with Benton and Amanda Lee's obsession with Greene appears to be reaching meltdown. Meanwhile, Ross and Hathaway continue to circle the subject of parenthood.

Sex and the City
Channel 4, 10pm

The dilemma faced by Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) in tonight's episode presumably reflects the daring nature of the too-often anodyne series. In bed with Mr Big (Chris Noth), she breaks wind (or cuts the cheese as the Americans might say) and immediately rushes out and away. This embarrassment, of course, cannot be the subject of her next column, but fortunately Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) has not had sex for three months: cue, how often is normal? So that's how women's magazines come up with ideas. **Tony Patrick**

Can the Reds continue their European march? Man Utd v Juventus (ITV, 7.30pm)

The Big Match — Live: Manchester United v Juventus
ITV, 7.30pm

Just what might the Old Lady make of the Red Devils? Juventus, alias the Old Lady of Turin, leave Italy for this European Cup semi-final first leg at Old Trafford with the return to come in the Stadio Delle Alpi a fortnight hence. Debilitated not only by a knee injury but also insidious off-the-field disputes, Zinedine Zidane, the Juventus captain and the 1998 world footballer of the year, should nevertheless be available to torment United but the Italians do boast formidable back-up in Edgar Davids, the Holland international, nicknamed Pitbull, so he might just out-tackle Roy Keane in central midfield — and Filippo Inzaghi, the Italy international striker. **Louise Godfrey**

RADIO CHOICE

Supermarket Kisses
Radio 4, 11.30am

Anita Dobson stars in this short play by Mark Tuohy, a fringe theatre writer new to radio. The play is more uplifting by its finish than the early prospects would suggest and it cleverly overturns some assumptions that may be made during its opening 15 minutes. Dobson plays a feisty women who is approaching 50 years old and finds most of the fun has gone from her life and her marriage. She celebrates her birthday with fellow supermarket workers Mel (Alison Pettitt) and Tom (Paul Bradley). The worse for drink, the three break into the supermarket, Carol lurching between panic, devilment and sexual curiosity. She is about to learn something unexpected about both Tom, and herself.

Reith Lectures: Runaway World
Radio 4, 8pm

The bangs and whistles that were added to the Reith Lectures last year in the form of a debate involving an audience (wow, gosh) have more trimmings this year in the shape of a travelling lecturer. Anthony Giddens is Director of the London School of Economics and the series title for the lectures this year is *Runaway World*, the talks being an exploration of globalisation. This is the excuse physically to site the lectures in different parts of the world, with the first one coming from London, the next three from Hong Kong, Delhi and Washington respectively. Professor Giddens will also be answering listeners' questions on the Internet from next Monday at this address: www.bbc.co.uk/reith99 **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Gilles Peterson **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show **10.00** Tom Paxton: Still Ramblin': New series of music and chat (1/8) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Mo Dutta **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of the night's big football matches, including the European Cup semi-finals, where Manchester United play Juventus and Dynamo Kiev clash with Bayern Munich. Plus, the National Lottery Draw **10.00** Littlejohn. No-nonsense football talk **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Pets **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Cricket: England v Pakistan **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Breakfast Show Team **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Sports International **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** One Planet **10.00** World News **10.05** Sounds Right **10.20** Blues World **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Sports International **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** One Planet **3.30** Meridian Live **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Jazzmatazz **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Performance **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** World News **8.05** One Planet **8.30** From Our Own Correspondent **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** One Planet **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Michael Mappin's Easter Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Saint-Saens (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick, including Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Debussy (En Bateau from Petite Suite); Haydn (Symphony No 103 in E flat major); Delius (Violin Concerto); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6 in E minor); Grainger (Molly on the Shore) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Arts news and music, including Mozart (Piano Trio in B flat, K502); Schumann (Adagio and Allegro in A flat, Op 70)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Prokofiev (Violin Sonata No 2, Op 94a); Berlioz (La mort de Cleopatre); Beethoven (Variations in F, Op 34)
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson
11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedrals Richard Baker investigates the musical importance of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Britten (r)
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Coull Quartet, Alan Schiller, piano. David Ellis (String Quartet No 2), Faure (Piano Quintet No 2 in C minor, Op 115) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic. Weber (Overture: The Ruler of the Spirits); Elgar (Violin Concerto in B minor); Bax (In memoriam); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)
4.00 Choral Evensong From St Paul's Parish Church, K Street, Washington DC, featuring Washington Symphonic Brass. Director of music Jeffrey Smith. Organist Scott Detra
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty previews the new CD by Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble
7.30 Performance on 3 The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, under Tadaaki Otaka, begin their Easter tour with an all-Russian programme at London's Barbican Hall. Lyadov (The Enchanted Lake); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor)
8.20 Book of the Month. An extended review of T.J. Clark's book *Farewell to an Idea: Episodes from a History of Modernism*, which considers whether modernism and socialism died together
8.40 Concert, part two. Mussorgsky, orch Ravel (Pictures at an Exhibition)
9.35 Postscript: Cinema Apocalyptica (3/5)
10.00 The Piano Return of the weekly series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present
11.00 Night Waves Patrick Wright presents the arts and culture magazine with discussion and review, including Bill Buford of the *New Yorker* with his regular letter on cultural life across the Atlantic
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to tenorist Bobby Wellins, a true voice of British Jazz
12.00 Through the Night **12.05** Machaut (Dix et sept) **12.15** Erik Tulindberg (Violin Concerto) **12.40** Heinichen (Se mai, Tirsi, mio bene, Clorie Tirsi) **1.00** The pianist Folmer Jensen plays Kuhlau and Weyse **2.15** Mozart (Flute Quartet No 3, K285b) **2.30** Mahler (Symphony No 1) **3.30** Praetorius (Meine Seel erhebt den Herrn, German Magnificat) **3.45** Forsyth (Songs from the Qu'Appelle Valley) **4.00** Spohr (Double Violin Concerto in B minor) **4.30** Gluck (Ballet music: Paride ed Elena) **4.40** Schickhardt (Concerto in G minor) **5.00** Chopin (Mazurka, Op 17 No 4) **5.10** Stravinsky (Suite: The Firebird, 1945) **5.40** Mozart (Flute Quartet No 2, K285a) **5.50** Arnold (Little Suite)

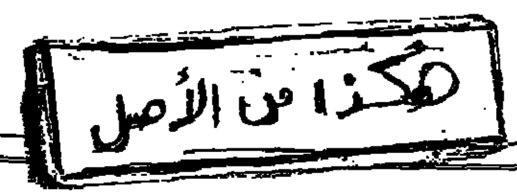
RADIO 4

5.30am World News **5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 Inshore Forecast **5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Paul Leddington Wright
9.45 (FM) Serial: Just William — The 80th Anniversary Martin Jarvis reads *The Bishop's Handkerchief*, by Richmal Crompton
10.00 Woman's Hour with Sheila McClennon and guests. Includes part three of *Diary of a Provincial Lady*, by E.M. Delafield
11.00 Africans Abroad Caroline Swinburne meets two Africans working as Christian missionaries in Britain who are finding their spiritual message falling on deaf ears
11.30 Supermarket Kisses by Mark Tuohy. See Choice
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News **12.04pm You and Yours** With Mark Whittaker and Trude Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with James Cox
1.30 Inspiration! Adam Hart-Davis, Lewis Wolpert, Susan Greenfield and Sue Nelson join Chris Stuart to explore the world of innovations, discoveries and inventions. Last in series
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Etiquette by Laura Bridgeman. Former tower block residents take stock of their community as they gather to celebrate the demolition of their old home. Starring Rosemary Leach, Anne Carroll and Mona Hammond
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time From University College, Dublin. With Nigel Colborn, John Cushnie, Bob Flowerdew and Eric Robson (r)
3.30 What's Yours Is Mine Couples talk to Rory Cellan-Jones about how money matters affect personal relationships (2/4) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 68 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Four Walls Jonathan Glancey explores the architectural and psychological problems of living and working underground. Last in series (4/4)
4.30 Case Notes Special Graham Easton reveals how to keep lungs healthy (r)
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 King Street Junior Jim Eldridge's comedy drama set in a junior school. Karl Howman stars (2/6) (r)
7.00 The Archers Action from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson reviews the Abba tribute show *Mamma Mia!*
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady Part three of E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The 1999 Reith Lectures New series. Director of the LSE Anthony Giddens gives the first of five lectures. See Choice (1/5)
9.00 From Digits to Divas Tracey Logan charts the development of talking and singing computers
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part three of Robert Harris' thriller (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Old Harry's Game Andy Hamilton's award-winning comedy set in Hell, starring James Grout and Jimmy Mulville. Satan remakes *Casablanca* (3/6)
11.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Mac and Philip Pope (r)
12.00 News **12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys** Kevin Whately reads part three of Philippa Gregory's novel about the Jacobean gardener and adventurer John Tradescant (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE: MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO: MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

هكذا من الأصل



Four legs good, two legs also pretty good

Most wildlife conservationists now seem to subscribe to the Orwellian dictum, "Four legs good, two legs bad" — and that curse goes for Peter Stringfellow, too, even though his hairstyle indicates that he is trying desperately to metamorphose into an Afghan hound. Millions of pounds are raised every year to safeguard endangered species and pillaged rainforests. But we have become so attuned to the idea that nature conservation is about saving forests and jungles and animals from man's predatory behaviour that it comes as a jolt when someone like Charles Lane comes along to shake some sense into us — not by preaching "Four legs good, two legs *better*," but just by reminding us that for nature conservation to have any hope of working we would do well to appreciate that, actually, "Four legs good, two legs *also* pretty good".

Counterblast: The Price of Conservation (BBC2) was a chilling story, unhysterically told. Lane, who has worked in Tanzania for more than ten years as an agriculturalist and social scientist, understands why people want to protect endangered wildlife: he understands because he wants to protect it, too.

But Lane thinks that many of us who feel good because we have contributed to, say, saving the rhino, might not feel quite so good if we knew that many conservation programmes are executed at the expense of those indigenous people who once lived on the land now being fenced off as wildlife preserves. These are local residents who have lived alongside these elephants and rhinos for centuries and who are often those responsible for preserving the African landscape in a state fit for safari tourists.

Lane led us to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania's most visited tourist destination. It is full of wildlife. It is also home to 50,000 indigenous, mostly Masai, residents. But "today," said Lane, "the Masai are told to leave lands they regard as their own. They signed an agreement with the British colonial Governor in 1958 to vacate what is now the nearby Serengeti National Park for rights of habitation in perpetuity in what is now called Ngorongoro Conservation Area. However this promise has been broken."

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Naitetoe Monjor, an elderly Masai, can recall the day, 25 years ago, when his village was evicted from the vast former crater floor in Ngorongoro where they reared cattle and grew crops. "The army arrived in the morning with torches and woke everybody up. They beat the children and forced everybody out of their homes and drove them up the crater wall. Any man that resisted was put in jail. Some cattle got lost and went back, and they were eaten by lions, hyenas, etc. Some of the women who were near term aborted. The people were just shoved up here and left with no shelter, no protection or anything from the elements." Doesn't sound all that dissimilar to what Milosevic gets up to, does it?

Lane believes that population pressures and poverty will eventually overthrow this approach to conservation: "We have to look at something more just, much more complex to ensure that Nature's bounty here is preserved for posterity and local people have a future."

Similar suffering is being inflicted on dispossessed indigenous peoples in other countries and on other continents. Passionate but not pushy, Lane would make a good presenter for a series investigating similar tensions elsewhere — not *instead* of David Attenborough's wonderful wildlife films, but *alongside* them.

In **Chasing The Tiger** (BBC1), Julian Pettifer also showed that if tigers are now threatened with extinction, it is not because of the indigenous people who have shared the tiger's habitat for centuries. Blame, instead, the poachers and traders servicing the Chinese medicine market for tiger products, which supposedly make you strong and brave.

For a rich country, Japan shows a particularly disheartening contempt for environmental legislation. In one Tokyo shop, our man with a hidden camera is offered more than just tiger bones: "This is tiger's penis. It's a bit off-colour, though", which was forgivable under the circumstances — the circumstances being that it had been detached from its owner and placed in a cellophane bag. "You steep it in white liquor for about three to six months and then you drink the liquid." If you're willing to drink *that*, then frankly you're probably as brave as you'll ever need to be on this earth.

Typical of Japan's pitiful unconcern for wildlife was a scene from a Japanese TV game show in which three Japanese celebrities were taken to a Shanghai restaurant and asked to identify exotic dishes. Could this one be turtle? Or badger? No, it's tiger, actually. A Bengal tiger was then led into the restaurant. Instead of throwing up in disgust, the three female celebrities faked panic in a cutesy, girly, game-show way. The only thing in this scene which looked the least bit dignified was the tiger.

When Stephen Tompkinson reached Bangkok in **Great Railway Journeys** (BBC2), he made a traditional gesture at a market stall of paying to release a caged bird — a popular Zen form of earning celestial credits. "It's a nice idea," said Tompkinson, who makes a jolly travelling companion providing you can stop him breaking into song, "even if the birds are caught and caged specially to be sold to the likes of me."

This is a neat form of recycling, but I'm not sure it's quite what Charles Lane had in mind when he advocated getting the local people personally and financially involved in caring for wildlife.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (11649)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (64668)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9236858)
9.45 Style Challenge (r) (8807378)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (1641741)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (9108755)
11.00 Change That (9185804)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9188991)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (6742674)
12.00 Going for a Song (8530561)
12.25pm Wipeout (5580246)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76085823)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (67755)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58162668)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16313465)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1201823)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2277378)
3.25 Children's BBC: Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8607262) **3.45** Starhill Ponies (4313674) **3.50** Hububb (7201674) **4.10** The Adventures of Shirley Holmes (7463484) **4.35** The Demon Headmaster (7602007) **5.00** Newsround (5634804) **5.10** Blue Peter (2568303)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (266378)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (910)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (262)



Craig Doyle travels to the Island of Phuket in Thailand (7pm)

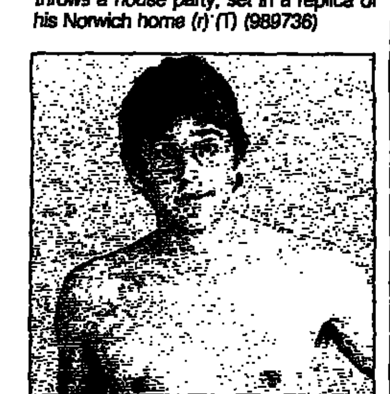
7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring Craig Doyle explores the Thai island of Phuket and Fenella George finds a golfer's paradise in Marbella. Plus, Tunisia and London's theatres (T) (1787)
7.30 DIY SOS Lowri Turner and Nick Knowles rescue DIY bodgers (T) (674)
8.00 Tomorrow's World Peter Snow and Philippa Forrester launch the Babies of *the Millennium* series, which will track children born at the start of the next century (T) (662216)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits with Angela Griffin (T) (856378)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4638)
9.29 National Lottery Update (907755)
9.30 Only Fools and Horses Rodney and Albert begin to worry that the flat will get a bit overcrowded once Raquel and Del's baby arrives (r) (T) (968484)
10.20 Designer Babies Investigation into the possible consequences of developments in genetic engineering (T) (198303)
11.10 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Preview of the Baftas (T) (722674)
11.40 School Ties (1992) A Jewish student enrols at an elite high school where he is met by anti-Semitic opposition from a group of bigots. With Chris O'Donnell. Directed by Robert Mandel (T) (801216)
1.20am Weather (5815392)
1.25 BBC News 24 (72734243)

WALES

10.20-11.10 The Slate (198303) **1.20am-1.25 News Headlines and Weather** (5815392)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5562620) **7.10** The Silver Brumby (9191674) **7.35** Top Cat (8450910) **7.55** Bots Master (8461026) **8.20** Buried Treasure (8176397) **8.40** Trading Places (9416303) **9.08** Rewind (3394649) **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7144804) **9.35** Student Bodies (8809736) **10.00** Teletubbies (17216) **10.30** FILM: Call of the Wild (20401858) **12.05pm** The Roadshow Collection (1780084) **12.30** Working Lunch (77571) **1.00** Brum (38460945)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (r) (1906649)
2.10 Racing from Ascot Coverage of the **2.30** Allied Bank Handicap Steeplechase, **3.05** Grosvenor Casinos Long Distance Hurdle, and the **3.40** Grosvenor Casinos Partnership Parade Handicap Hurdle (326303)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (7277465)
4.00 Kaye Advice show (7287842)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7360129)
4.55 Esther (r) (T) (9489939)
5.30 Whose House? (939)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Part one. An explosion blasts Data back to the 1880s (r) (T) (195668)
6.45 Radical Highs Extreme sports magazine (r) (T) (157804)
7.00 Golf 1999 US Masters preview (8939)
7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs A cheese-filled savoury tart with chives, onions and garlic (T) (216)
8.00 House Detectives The team visit Ironbridge (5/6) (T) (2277)
8.30 Looking Good The team look into the new technology behind virtual shopping. Last in series (T) (6194)
9.00 Knowing Me, Knowing Yule Chat show host Alan Partridge (Steve Coogan) throws a house party, set in a replica of his Norwich home (r) (T) (989736)



Louis Theroux investigates the American porn industry (9.40pm)

9.40 Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends The intrepid reporter delves into America's porn industry (r) (T) (223823)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (352194)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (424200)
11.20 The Battle for Congress First in a two-part documentary following two candidates as they compete for a seat in Congress during 1998 (1/2) (394151)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show Dick Van Dyke guest stars (r) (8086601)
12.25am Weather (2399682)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Food: Whose Choice is it Anyway? **1.00** Healing the Whole **1.30** Healthy Futures: Whose Views Count? **2.00** GCSE Bitesize Revision — German **4.00** Languages: Espana Viva! **5.00** Business and Training: So You Want to Work in Social Care? **5.30** Creating an Effective Team **5.45** Open University: Easing the Pain **6.10** *Pathfinding in the Brain* **6.35** Seasonal Affective Disorder

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (57939)
6.00 GMTV (2006668)
9.25 CITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (7169113) **9.50** The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (7185194) **10.15** Bugs Bunny (7447007)
10.25 ITV News Headlines (T); HTV News (2275910)
10.30 Slam Dunk Ernest (1995) The hapless Ernest is back, this time taking to the basketball court with a pair of magic shoes. Comedy, starring Jim Varney. Directed by John Cherry (49366007)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7212991)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2916945)
12.55 Shortland Street Guy stands up to Carmen (1902823)
1.30 Lie Detector Dominic Green invites viewers whose friends or family suspect them of lying to undergo tests to find out (T) (16319649)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous talk show (T) (5277007)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2266262)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5047858)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5046129)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5954194) **3.30** Teddybears (5711200) **3.40** Jumanji (2697397) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7261804) **4.35** Wildtrack (7793303)
5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (8129)
5.30 WEST: Live and Local Reports from Filton (465)
5.30 WALES: Up Beat Pop culture (T) (465)
5.58 HTV Weather (101945)
6.00 HTV News (T) (378)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (546129)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (858)
7.00 Coronation Street Curly takes pity on Tyrone (T) (5465)
7.30 CHOICE **The Big Match — Live!** Manchester United v Juventus (kick-off **7.45pm**) (T) (14144007)



The survivors of the catastrophe set about rebuilding their lives (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE **The Last Train** New six-part drama series set in the aftermath of a huge asteroid collision that destroys human civilisation (1/6) (T) (779261)
10.45 The Big Match Update News of the European Cup semi-finals (279552)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (919668)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (804397)
11.30 The Big Match Highlights of tonight's European Cup semi-finals (84674)
12.30am Manhunt: The Search for the Night Stalker (TVM 1989) Fact-based chiller recounting the police investigation that led to the arrest of a serial killer terrorising California. Richard Jordan stars. Directed by Bruce Seth Green (115392)
2.15 The Big Match Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich (247392)
4.05 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (2934514)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (91514)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9430620)
12.55 Lie Detector (2828736)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4092552)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89065823)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5046129)
5.30 Shortland Street (465)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (378)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (804397)
4.05am Central Jobfinder '99 (8524750)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9767934)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7212991)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9455939)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (2828736)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4092552)
2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (89065823)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5046129)
4.59-5.00 Birthday People (8043264)
5.30 Peter Gorton for Starters (465)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (378)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (804397)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7212991) **5.30 Big Day Out** (2/5) (r) (465) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (378) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (942194) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (804397) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (91514)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (9459755) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (9430620) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (9375084) **5.30-6.00 Whipsnade** (11/13) (T) (465) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (378) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (428026) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (804397)

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28132939) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69165303) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (92305194) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92152910) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93528945) **10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (83214113) **10.30 CatDog** (T) (39004113) **10.45 Boy Meets World** (T) (75422295) **11.15 Moesha** (T) (78672718) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (99369533) **12.00 Dawson's Creek** (T) (93443668) **1.00pm Planed Plant** (T) (69062262) **1.30 FILM: The Student Prince** (T) (78430741) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99558216) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99464823) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99460007) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (41835620) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99557587) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49918007) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39799552) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41855484) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99461736) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (41831804) **8.30 Hawlio** (T) (41850939) **9.00 ER** (T) (27582007) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51209552) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (81291755) **11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85919858) **11.35 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth** (T) (98887842) **12.10am F3** (r) (14268175) **12.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (85072507) **3.05 Trans World Sport** (24878251) **4.05 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.50am The Magic Roundabout (2439945)
5.55 Sesame Street (r) (5102007)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (57378)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3486674)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (T) (7147991)
9.30 Sam and Max (68823)
10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (39484)
10.30 CatDog (T) (3180620)
10.45 Boy Meets World (T) (369533)
11.15 Moesha (T) (462674)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2446668)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (44755)
12.30pm ***Bewitched*** (r) (T) (79939)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (r) (T) (50465)
1.30 Little Gems (13216216)
1.35 The Three Stooges (r) (95378736)
1.55 It Always Rains on Sunday (1947) A convict is forced to shack up with his married mistress while on the run from the police. With Googie Withers. Directed by Robert Hamer (T) (21838858)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (736)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (571)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7792674)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9474007)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (197)



James Van Der Beek stars as the troubled Dawson

6.00 Dawson's Creek Jen and Vincent have their first date and Andy reveals a terrible family secret to Pacey, while Dawson's parents' marriage seems to have reached the end of the line (T) (827755)
6.55 T4orce A choice selection of the best bits from last week's T4 (884571)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (563945)
7.55 Dovetales Insight into how the Good Friday peace agreement has affected tourism in Northern Ireland (T) (459674)
8.00 Brookside (T) (2755)
8.30 Doors to Manual Three viewers jet off for a weekend in Berlin (6/6) (T) (1262)
9.00 CHOICE **ER** Carter tries in vain to save a teenager's life, then persuade his grieving mother to sanction organ donation (T) (7552)
10.00 CHOICE **Sex and the City** Miranda rejects celibacy (T) (45484)
10.30 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth Reports from the US (T) (21804)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (8533)
11.30 So Graham Norton With Hollywood star Billy Zane (r) (T) (374736)
12.10am F3 The British Formula Three Championship (r) (7566040)
12.45 Football Italia — Mezzanotte Serie A action (12595798)
3.05 Trans World Sport (2346359)
4.05 Electric Avenue (1/4) (r) (T) (42399507)
4.30 Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back (1934) The ex-British Army officer's honeymoon is interrupted by a murder mystery. Adventure, starring Ronald Colman and Loretta Young. Directed by Roy del Ruth (9000798)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (5030129)
7.00 WideWorld Part four. Maggie Philbin explores the island of Madeira (r) (T) (2980945)
7.30 Milkshake! (2778303)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4109216)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8816649)
8.30 Witchworld; 5 News Update (8808620)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (4843945)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (3247113)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6836397)
10.20 Sunset Beach Antonio fears that Gabi is dead (T) (4212571)
11.10 Leeza (3984736)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8819736)
12.30pm Family Affairs Sadie shows off her cookery skills (r) (T); 5 News Update (9932115)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Dylan rescues Jessica and Jasmine (T) (2989216)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Award-winning entertainment show boasting provocative interviews and hot musical acts, presented by comedian Roseanne; 5 News Update (3953976)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2110533)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (8876303)
3.30 Johnnie Mae Gibson FBI (TVM 1986) True story of the FBI's first black female agent, who battles prejudice to prove she can make the grade. Drama, starring Lynn Whitfield. Directed by Bill Duke (2970991)
5.20 5 News (T) (59228397)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6107200)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (6104113)
6.30 Family Affairs Gabby has a surprise visitor (T); 5 News Update (6195465)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael and KITT race to the rescue of an ex-girlfriend wrongly accused of murder. David Hasselhoff stars (r) (2019113)
7.25 Russell Grant's Postcards The star-gazer visits the Canton of Bern in Switzerland (1612129)
7.30 Animal Marvels The amazing strength of spiders' webs (T); 5 News Update (2671649)
8.05 Another Woman (TVM 1994) A woman is left for dead in an alley after a brutal attack but miraculously survives — unwittingly sparking off a series of events which put her estranged husband in grave danger. Drama, with Justine Bateman, Peter Outerbridge and Kenneth Walsh. Directed by Alan Smythe (T); 5 News Update (10303804)
10.00 Blind Fury (1989) Adventure about a blind ninja warrior out to bring down the ruthless mobsters who kidnapped his friend's son. Rutger Hauer stars. Directed by Phillip Noyce (8478587)
11.35 Not the Jack Docherty Show With Jack Dee (7742465)
12.15am UK Raw (7/10) (9481682)
12.45 Live and Dangerous Jonathan Gould and Todd Macklin present live coverage of a top US baseball game, plus Australian Rules football (50648779)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6901779)

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For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY ONE

…00am Count Duckula (93194) **7.30** …mmy (95129) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (…7620) **8.30** Godzilla (66991) **9.00** …okemon (80571) **9.30** Simpsons (97303) …0.00 Shadow Raiders. J'Accuse (71484) …0.30 Xena: Warrior Princess (53281) **11.30** …egend of the Hidden City (48718) **12.00** …arzan Epic Adventures (14026) **1.00pm** …ad About You (92465) **1.30** Jeopardy (…4262) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (72113) …00 Jenny Jones (48754) **4.00** Pokemon (…113) **4.30** Shadow Raiders. J'Accuse (…397) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1858) **6.00** …merica's Dumbest Criminals (2262) **6.30** …riends (6842) **7.00** Simpsons (2587) **7.30** …impsons (2026) **8.00** Mortal Kombat …onquest (39303) **9.00** X Files (53939) …0.00 Miami Uncovered (56026) **11.00** …riends (16910) **11.30** Star Trek. Voyager (…1945) **12.30am** Law and Order (49224) …30 Long Play (4767137)

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…nastasia (1997)
…phere (1997)
…KY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
…ousehunt (1997)

SKY PREMIER

…00am Charlie's Ghost Story (1994) (…8262) **8.00 Casper: A Spirited Beginning (1997)** (61007) **10.00 A Pig's Tale (1995)** (29179) **12.00 Charlie's Ghost Story (1994)** (57858) **2.00pm Hello Again (1987)** (38620) **4.00 Casper: A Spirited Beginning (1997)** (1804) **6.00 A Pig's Tale (1995)** (91397) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (5736) **8.00 The Chamber (1996)** (33129) **10.00 Air Force One (1997)** (93176587) **12.05am Diabolique (1996)** (882392) **1.55 Prisoner of Fear (1996)** (141243) **3.30 The Hunter (1980)** (475717)

SKY MOVIEMAX

…00am **Snowboard Academy (1997)** (…874) **9.00 Playing to Win (1997)** (56129) **11.00 Cosmic Shock (1997)** (50113) **1.00 Snowboard Academy (1997)** (50945) **3.00 Playing to Win (1997)** (59533) **5.00 Cosmic Shock (1997)** (83668) **7.00 Rockford Files: If the Frame Fits (1996)** (29858) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (2910) **9.00 Space Truckers (1997)** (34858) **11.00 Shadow Conspiracy (1997)** (393587) **12.45am Defenders: The Payback (1997)** (489668) **2.25 The Truth About Cats and Dogs (1995)** (785137) **4.05 Her Deadly Rival (1995)** (396953)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Sons of the Desert (1933) (7429397) **5.00 Tarzan and the Green Goddess (1938)** (80921620) **7.15 My Fair Lady (1964)** (48798533) **10.00 Zardoz (1974)** (7724910) **11.50 The Bawdy Adventures of Tom Jones (1976)** (1873736) **1.25am Three Hours to Kill (1954)** (13949137) **2.45 The Rainbow (1988)** (2451224) **4.40 Anne of Green Gables (1934)** (23150514)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Kes (1970) (8552262) **8.00 French Kiss (1995)** (8564007) **10.00 The Driver (1978)** (3058378) **11.40 Le Cercle Rouge (1970)** (22788668) **2.00am Maurice (1987)** (28377595) **4.15 Another Country (1984)** (1553974) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Cabin in the Cotton (1932) (93450465) **11.00 Sweet Bird of Youth (1962)** (98587736) **1.15am Alfred the Great (1969)** (29939934) **3.30 Cabin in the Cotton (1932)** (30016408) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **8.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Golf **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Super League **2.00** Golf **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Boxing Superbouts **5.00** World Wrestling Federation. Shotgun **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Big Fight Countdown **7.00** Rugby League World **8.30** Big Fight Countdown **9.00** Trans World Sport **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Big Fight Countdown **11.30** Australian Rally Championship **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Rugby League World **2.30** European Tour Weekly **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Sports Unlimited **11.00** Powerboat and Jetsport World **11.30** V-Max **12.00** Live Cricket **8.00pm** Live Cricket **10.00** Golf Extra **12.00** Unbelievable Sports **12.30am** Trans World Sport **1.30** Watersports World **2.30** Unbelievable Sports **3.00** Australian Rally Championship **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Wrestling **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Live Snooker **5.00** Australian Rally **5.30** Golf Weekly **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Live Snooker **10.00** Unbelievable Sports **10.30** Watersports World **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football **12.00** US Golf **1.00pm** Equestrianism **2.00** Live Cycling **4.00** Live Football **6.00** Cycling **8.30** Live Curling **8.30** Start Your Engines **9.30** Football **11.30** Start Your Engines **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Hamish Macbeth **11.25** The Bill **12.25am** Between the Lines **1.25** Dad's Army **2.00** Man from Auntie **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors



Matt Damon stars in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rainmaker*, a legal thriller based on the book by John Grisham (Box Office 2)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Blues and Twos **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Head Over Heels **10.00** Pie in the Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules. The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Winnie the Pooh's Most Grand Adventure (1997)** **8.15** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **1.00pm** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **2.30** Hey Arnold! **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.00** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** USA High **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **9.30** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **10.30** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved by the Bell: The College Years **11.30** Saved by the Bell: The College Years **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00pm** Smash Hits Poll Winners Party **3.00** City Guys **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Weird Science **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** In the House **6.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **7.00** Blast **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Vixen (1968)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: To Live and Die in LA (1985)** **5.15** Short **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.30am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** VR5 **9.00** Lexx **10.00 FILM: Red Sonja (1985)** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00am FILM: Night of the Creeps (1985)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Best of British **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Lost Treasures of the Ancient World **9.00** Supertrains **10.00** Three Gorges. The Biggest Dam in the World **11.00** Machines that Won the War **12.00** Konkordski **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** The Blue Beyond **2.00** The Blue Beyond **3.00** The Mystery of the Blue Whale **4.00** Champions of the Wild **4.30** The Blue Wilderness **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **5.30** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Tsaatan, The Reindeer Riders **7.30** Monkeys of Hanuman **8.30** Looters! **9.00** Extreme Earth. The Gift of the Monsoon **10.00** Extreme Earth: Tsunami — Killer Wave **11.00** Dinosaur Hunters **12.00** Poles Apart

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: The Gulf War — Secrets in the Sand **5.00** Classic Cars: Austin Healey 3000 **6.00** Qin Shihuangdi: The Riddle of China's First Emperor **7.00** Playback. Tom Robinson **7.30** Bomb to the Beatles: I, Witness — Nice Little Earners

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** From the Ground Up **10.30** Nancy Lam's Wok Wiz **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** A Year at Ballymaloe **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **2.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Simply Baking **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Jerry Springer Show **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Buried Secrets (1996)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

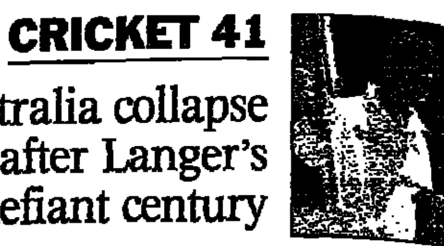
5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Hey Ha Ho **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Tara **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Khoobburat **11.30** Sharjah Cup 1999: India v England **3.00pm** Hum Paanch **3.30** Sharjah Cup 1999: India v England **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Urdu Drama **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00** News **12.30am** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmarlan **2.00 FILM: Movie: Chaltam En Kayli** **4.30** Narsayo



RACING 39
Bradley in race against time to figure in National

SPORT

CRICKET 41
Australia collapse after Langer's defiant century



WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1999

Juventus earn Ferguson's respect before European Cup semi-final

United prepare to settle score

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THOMAS HEARNS and the players of Juventus arrived in Manchester yesterday from the different worlds of Detroit and Turin. They had one thing in common. Both found themselves in the unfamiliar position of being consigned to the undercard.

One has come to support a Prince, the others to try to break the hearts of the men who would sacrifice everything else to be kings of Europe. They may be in decline, but that is why they are so dangerous. In their own fields, they are still hit-men, still deadly if underestimated.

As their powers fade, Juventus have made a speciality of striking just when their opponents thought that they had breathed their last. Time and again, they seem to survive against the odds, qualifying by squeezing through the narrowest of mathematical loopholes, edging through with implausibly late equalisers.

They managed to finish top of group B in the league stages of this season's European

Fines threat to players.....40
Ferguson returns............40
Simon Barnes..................41

Cup, even though they only won one match — and that was their last. In the quarter-finals, they were on the brink of elimination to Olympiakos in Greece when Antonio Conte scored minutes from the end to send them through by the narrowest of margins.

No wonder Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, looked grave and earnest yesterday. He knows Juventus well, respects them above all other European sides for their pedigree, their consistency and for the fact that they are on the verge of appearing in their fourth successive European Cup final.

Behind their tales of vulnerability and the fact that they are adrift in mid-table in Serie A, there lurks something grizzly and hard-bitten at the heart of Juventus, an instinct for knowing how to avoid defeat that cannot be beaten out of them.

Thus, while Ferguson was, quite rightly, optimistic about his team's chances of making a good start by beating them in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tonight, his words exuded caution and respect.

There were no jokes about Italian duplicity this time, no gibes about pasta and sauces, no mind games about diving and scheming, as there had been in the run-up to the matches against Internazionale last month. This time, it's serious.

This time, too, United are ready: sure that they have no reason to feel overawed against the side that has become their measuring stick. If they beat Juventus, the team that has exposed their deficiencies so brutally in the past, they will feel that neither Bayern Munich nor Dynamo Kiev will hold any terrors for them in the final.

When they met in this competition two years ago, United played the timid first formers to the Juventus version of Gripper, the school bully. Now, fitter, meaner, stronger and more experienced, United have got the wherewithal to strike back.

It appears that they have a full squad to choose from, that Ryan Giggs will take his place on the left wing and Jaap Stam his in the centre of defence. The only real doubt surrounds the choice of Henning Berg or Ronny Johnsen to partner the Dutchman.

"If we have a good start to the game, if we settle into it well, I think we have a fabulous chance," Ferguson said. "It is never easy in semi-finals. You can make them easy or hard. We hope that the experience we have gathered will help us tomorrow night, because we will need that experience against Juventus. The spirit of the team is fantastic. We have proved our quality. We have just to take that final step where we don't want to disappoint in a game like this. We have played them four times now and I think that will help.

"The important thing is to meet the challenge — and we have got a real challenge tomorrow. It is going to be a great game. The priority is to score goals and we won't change our style that way. I don't think Juventus are expecting us to change, either, so we won't be disappointing anyone.

"They will be thinking about what I am going to do with my team and I have given my selection a lot of thought. Hopefully, I have got it right. In the past, we have not had the reputation of being defensively technical and I don't think we are particularly good at that, but you can make sure that you have the right type of players in the right areas of the field that can match their best players.

"I don't think you can underestimate the value of their experience. They know how not to lose games. They have got the experience not to lose their heads. They have scored two or three late goals in this competition this season, but it is not necessarily a good situation to be in. Sometimes, it runs out for you. Sometimes, even experience can't get you back."

Ferguson spoke for the rest of his team when he admitted his relief at the absence of Alessandro Del Piero, victim to a long-term knee injury. United will have to face Zinedine Zidane, but the man who is officially the world's best player is not fully fit.

Ferguson brushed aside questions about the Frenchman's fitness, wary of becoming embroiled in another spat about gamesmanship, determined to offer nothing but respect even when an Italian journalist invited him to repeat his opinions about their Machiavellian tendencies.

"You get so serious about these things," Ferguson said. "It was just a bit of fun, but it obviously upset someone. You want to know what I think, but do you want to pay my next fine?"



OWEN HUMPHREYS

Ferguson allows himself a rare smile yesterday as he contemplates the size of United's task against Juventus in the European Cup semi-final first leg at Old Trafford tonight

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2)
P Schmeichel
G Neville, R Johnsen, J Stam, D Irwin
D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs
A Cole, D Yorke

JUVENTUS (4-4-1-1)
A Peruzzi
Z Mirkovic, P Montero, M Iuliano, G Pessotto
A Conte, D Deschamps, E Davids, A Di Livio
Z Zidane,
F Inzaghi

Referee: M Diaz Vega (Spain)
Kick off: 7.45
TV: Live coverage, ITV, from 7.30.
RADIO: live coverage from both semi-finals Radio 5 Live

FA charges Fowler over his latest prank

By Stephen Wood

ROBBIE FOWLER was yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association for the second time in less than three months. Already facing an FA hearing on Friday concerning his contretemps with Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea defender, Fowler now has to answer to the authorities over the controversial goal celebration that he indulged in last weekend.

Only now can the implications of his "heat of the moment" prank, when he appeared to mimic the actions of a cocaine user in the FA Carling Premiership match with Everton at Anfield, be sinking in. To fall foul of the FA once may be a mistake, but twice in such a short space of time is foolhardy in the extreme.

Added to the fact that Fowler's penchant for humour is potentially offensive to certain groups, the FA is unlikely to treat him lightly. Fowler has 14 days to respond to this second charge and, if he requests another personal hearing, then his exit from Lancaster Gate on Friday, after the Le Saux case is closed, may not be so much a "goodbye", as "*au revoir*".

Liverpool last night said that they had fined Fowler "a very substantial amount" and warned him about his future conduct. The FA could also dock another two weeks' wages from Fowler's pay, which is believed to be around £30,000 a week. Moreover, the powers of punishment in this second case are limitless, such is the unprecedented nature of Fowler's celebrations.

He has been fined £900 by Uefa before, for wearing a T-shirt in support of the sacked Liverpool dockers, but this is more serious. The FA could ban Fowler for five or six league matches. Although the two charges will be treated separately, the FA will take into account the player's previous record if they find him guilty of the second charge. Thus, if he has been punished for the Le Saux affair, the repercussions for his acts last weekend could intensify.

If Fowler is banned, he could miss the end of the season and, possibly, the beginning of the next campaign. Just as he has forced his way back into the England picture, his foolishness could not have come at a worse time.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1685

ACROSS
1 Vicious critical attack (7,3)
9 Sporting engagement (7)
10 Inca knot system (5)
11 Norse thunder god (4)
12 Apparent solar path (8)
14 Bring about: restrict (inheritance) (6)
15 Battle site, 1066 (6)
18 Scrooge's first name (8)
20 Make a to-do (4)
22 Of vision (5)
23 Endanger (7)
24 Drudgery (6-4)

DOWN
2 Fit of fever (4)
3 Close fist round (6)
4 Asked (8)
5 Structural beam (5)
6 Inflatable children jump on (6,6)
7 Unofficially (3,3,6)
8 Urge strongly (6)
13 Irritating know-all (8)
16 Slat in door (6)
17 Notice: a 1, possibly (6)
19 Taken as food (5)
21 Desultory fight; various minerals (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1684
ACROSS: 1 Dust bowl 5 Apse 8 Fragrant 9 Long 11 Curia 12 October 13 Disown 15 Bother 18 Amphora 19 Grail 21 Boom 22 Coquetry 23 Tito 24 Captured
DOWN: 1 Defaced 2 Stair 3 Birnam Wood 4 Wanton 6 Pooh-Bah 7 Edgar 10 Strong suit 14 Support 16 Relayed 17 Pagoda 18 Ambit 20 After

Zidane ready to cross the pain barrier in pursuit of dream

By Stephen Wood

THERE was no doubting the news, even though the pictures confirming it looked surreal. He was the centre of attention, positioned sheepishly between Ronaldo and Davor Suker, holding a memento of the occasion in his hands.

With a beige sports jacket, a V-neck sweater and his hair combed over a receding hairline, he appeared more like a schoolteacher. In fact, Zinedine Zidane had been named world footballer of the year. It was tempting to check whether his jacket had leather elbow patches to complete the effect, but that would have been too insulting.

His choice of outfit for the Fifa gala was probably handpicked from one of Armani's finest collections for, although he does not act like one, Zidane is truly a star of the world game. He is also fêted as one. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, acknowledges the midfield player's quality and he will be wary of the contribution that Zidane is likely to make for Juventus at Old Trafford tonight, when the old adversaries meet again, this time in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final.

There had been some doubt over Zidane's presence in Manchester, for the knee injury that he sustained in Juventus' last European Cup outing, against Olympiakos, threatened to sideline him once more. Zidane, the France international, has not played since that second leg in Greece and, although Carlos Ancelotti, the Juventus coach, was confident about his fitness, Zidane himself was more circumspect.

"I still have pain in the knee when I kick the ball," he said. "It means I will have to play through gritted teeth and there is no guarantee that I will last the whole match. But to play against United is so important, so I must make the sacrifices."

Zidane, therefore, will start the match, the fifth time in three seasons that United have met Juventus in the competition. In the previous two years, Juventus have held the upper hand, so much so that they have advanced to the final. There, however, they have been beaten twice in succession, something that still rankles with Zidane.

"It is the biggest regret of my career so far that I have not won a European Cup with Juventus," he said. "Last season [when they lost to Real Madrid in Amsterdam] was worse, because I wondered if I would ever be recognised as a great player on such a stage. It is lucky for me that the World Cup came along when it did."

Zidane scored two headed goals in the final against Brazil to help to secure the World Cup for France last July. Since then, however, his form for his club has been indifferent, prompting suggestions that his global success had affected his attitude. "It is true that I did not feel quite right after the World Cup, but I know that my head is back together again now," he said.

That is what United are worried about. Zidane has every incentive to perform to his own high standards and so, too, do his team-mates. It is 55 games since their club was knocked out of European competition.

Although their defeat to Empoli, the bottom club in Serie A last weekend would not suggest it, the Juventus team that walks out at Old Trafford tonight will be a happy collection of players. The internal bickering and disputes that characterised the end of the reign of Marcello Lippi, the former coach, have dispersed.

Ancelotti has reclaimed the faith of the players for the moment and, with rumours abounding that Zidane might leave Turin at the end of the season, Ancelotti means to waste no time in capitalising on their relative serenity.

Zidane's greatest wish is to win the cup with Juventus

مكتبة الاسكندرية